MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

Nabavi comment--Minister of State Behzad Nabavi told a press conference in Tehran, reported by AFP, that Iran is willing to listen to any new proposals to solve the hostage issue but cannot accept "simple promises." "If America can suggest another solution in the form of a guarantee acceptable to the Algerian Government," Nabavi said, "that would be acceptable to us."

Rafsanjani reply to Reagan--In a speech to the Majlis, reported by Tehran radio, Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani responded to remarks by President-elect Ronald Reagan that the hostages' captors are "barbarians" and the Iranians are demanding a "ransom" for their release. Rafsanjani contrasted Iran's arrest of "spies whose espionage evidence has been repeatedly disclosed" with the U.S. "savage crimes," including, he alleged, U.S. involvement in Iraq's war against Iran. American "bullies," he went on, "have been committing these crimes for centuries in the name of civilization." Iran, he said, is not asking for a ransom but only the return of money "plundered" by the United States during the last 30 years, including the monetary gain to the United States of buying Iranian oil at cheap prices. Rafsanjani said Iran's demand for a guaranteed sum to be deposited in Algeria was made to insure that the United States, which Iran mistrusts, does not cheat. The Majlis speaker also warned the United States that Iran is not frightened by "threats," including a threat to occupy an island or a port.

According to an AFP report on the press conference, Rafsanjani said that it is "unnecessary" to set a deadline for the United States to respond to Iran's demands and that the United States must be allowed time "to study the problem at its normal pace."

Iran-USSR

The Soviet ambassador to Iran met with Prime Minister 'Ali Raja'i and handed him the official protest note of the USSR on the 27 December attack on its embassy, according to Tehran radio. Raja'i told the Soviet envoy that there were more Afghan demonstrators than anticipated and that the authorities had no plan to control this protest, but he gave "assurances" that such incidents "will not take place" in the future. Nevertheless, the prime minister asserted that the demonstration had been sparked by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and expressed his hope that the occupation will end as soon as possible.

An unattributed commentary on the radio further defended Iran's reaction to the Afghan demonstrators, stressing repeatedly that it "had no part in this incident." Calling "baseless and unreasonable" charges that Iran had a hand in the violence, the commentary declared that Iran has "no need" to attack the Soviet Embassy to protest its invasion of Afghanistan, an act Iran condemned as soon as it occurred. The commentary hinted at the possibility that "Maoist or pro-American groups" might have been involved in the demonstration to further the aims of "imperialism or the big powers."

Iran Domestic Affairs

According to AFP, Prime Minister Raja'i announced that the Esfahan oil refinery has been repaired following a fire of undetermined origin that swept the complex on 1 December.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Ayad Sa'id Thabit, a former Iraqi politician, has announced the formation of an opposition movement aimed at ousting Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. At a press conference, reported by Tehran radio, Thabit said the movement will include "most organizations" fighting against the Iraqi leader. An AFP report quoted Thabit as excluding the Muslim Brotherhood from his organization.

Iranian forces pushed Iraqi troops back from Dezli and the Dalani heights, Tehran radio reported, and also assaulted Iraqi positions on the Khuninshahr-Ahvaz highway. The radio added that Iraqi planes attacked Hamadan, Abadan, Dezful and Ilam but were driven off by Iranian antiaircraft fire. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio, claimed that another 83 Iranians were killed in fighting along various fronts.

Saudi Arabia

SPA reported that Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told the press that Saudi Arabia had asked for AWACS aircraft before the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war but had subsequently requested accelerated delivery on loan. Saudi military technicians, he said, will operate the new AWACS planes the kingdom will receive in the future. A KUNA report on the defense minister's statement said Prince Sultan referred to the U.S. presence in the country as only a "technical" one and denied the existence of any treaties between the two states. Concerning other foreign policy matters, he denied "tendentious reports" of differences between Saudi Arabia and the YAR and confirmed Pakistan's denial of any military agreement with Saudi Arabia.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that President Anwar as-Sadat asserted at a joint press conference following a meeting with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that without the United States as a "full partner" in the negotiations, it would have been impossible to achieve what has so far been attained. Regarding Jordan's role in the peace negotiations, As-Sadat said King Husayn "has a role" in the Camp David agreements and "must participate" in the talks "after we complete the establishment of autonomy for the Palestinians."

Syrian-Lebanese Relations

Lebanese Prime Minster Shafiq al-Wazzan held talks in Damascus with high-level Syrian leaders, including President Hafiz al-Asad. According to Damascus radio, the discussions focused on Lebanese matters. In a subsequent press conference reported by the radio, the Syrian president neither confirmed nor denied that new security arrangements are being made in Lebanon.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 252 *30 December 1980*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

ARABIAN PENINUSLA

KUWAIT

General Election Scheduled for 23 February C 1
Prime Minister Outlines Joint Strategy Concept C 1
[AL-QABAS 28 Dec]

SAUDI ARABIA

Good-Offices Delegation Leaves for Baghdad C 2
Defense Minister on Relations With YAR, Pakistan C 2
Taiwan-Saudi Communique on Cultural Cooperation C 3

PDRY

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Addresses Military Commanders C 3
5-Year Trade Pact Signed With Soviet Union C 4

EGYPT

As-Sadat, Kissinger Hold Press Conference 29 Dec D 1
Military Chief of Staff Interviewed on U.S. Aid D 1
Al-Baz Interviewed on Autonomy, U.S. Relations D 4
[London AL-HAWADITH 26 Dec]
Egypt To Get Nuclear Reactors From U.S. D 7
Nuclear Nonproliferation Agreement To Be Ratified D 7
Parliament Reaffirms Support for Afghan Strugglers D 7
Egypt Requests Postponement of Autonomy Talks D 8
MENA Reports on AL-AHRAM Interview With Pope D 8
Response to Vatican D 10
Egypt Reportedly Bans Algerian Overflights D 11

IRAQ

Assassination Attempt Against Bani-Sadr Reported E 1
Baghdad Views U.S. Motives in Hostages Issue E 1
Foreign Affairs Official on Intentions in Iran E 2
[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 29 Dec]
Armed Forces General Command Communiques E 3
Communique No 192 E 3
Communique No 193 E 4
Communique No 194 E 4
Arabistan 'Spokesman' Repudiates Khomeyni Claims E 5
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets Husayn, Departs E 6
Voice of Iraqi Revolution Programming Reported E 6

JORDAN

Kuwaiti Source Denies Gulf Summit To Be Held F 1
Moroccans Reportedly To Train Iraqis on Mirage-1 F 1
AL-AKHBAR: No Response to Syrian Media Campaign F 1

SYRIA

Lebanese Prime Minister Visits, Talks With Al-Asad H 1
Arrival Statement H 1
Prime Ministers' Talks H 2
Al-Asad, Al-Wazzan Remarks H 2
General Jones' Tour Linked With New Jordanian Role H 7
Nabulus Mayor Arrives in Damascus 29 Dec H 7
Foreign Affairs Minister Returns From Morocco H 7

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

U.S. GAO Report of Gas Price Hike Denied I 1

MAURITANIA

AFP Reports on Alleged Foreign Subversion I 1
Libyan Diplomats' Expulsion I 2
Senegalese Muslim Leader Believed Expelled I 2

MOROCCO

Rabat Reports 24 Dec 'Violent Battles' in Semara I 3

TUNISIA

Morocco's Bouabid's Visit Ends; Statements Made I 3
Joint Statement I 4

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Envoy Advocates Spain-Sahara Communique I 5
Army Launches 'Fierce Attack' on Moroccans 24 Dec I 5

ISRAEL

Peres To Meet With Incoming U.S. Officials N 1
Shamir Comments on Freeze in Autonomy Talks N 1
Moda'i Resigns as Communications Minister N 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CONGO

Four New Ministries Created in Reorganization S 1
Communique Follows Central Committee Session S 2

WEST AFRICA

THE GAMBIA

Youths Describe Antigovernment Training in Libya T 1

NIGERIA

Reportage, Comment on Disturbances in Kano T 1
Minister's Remarks T 1
Casualties, Arrests T 2
Kaduna Commentary T 2

SIERRA LEONE

President Stevens' Cabinet Changes Announced T 3

UPPER VOLTA

Ruling Committee Decrees on Curfew, Firearms T 4

KUWAIT

GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR 23 FEBRUARY

LD281235 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1217 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] Kuwait, 28 December--Kuwait today set 23 February as the date for a general election in the country and the restoration of parliamentary life after a suspension of more than 4 years. This was announced following an ordinary cabinet meeting today.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn told journalists after the meeting today that the new parliament will convene early in March.

The resumption of Parliamentary life in Kuwait was decreed by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, last August. The decree provided that an election should be held before the end of February. Parliamentary life was suspended in August 1976.

The coming election will be the first in Kuwait since the election of January 1974, which brought the former parliament into being. That parliament was dissolved in less than 3 years after it was accused by the government of obstructing its work and creating a spirit of division.

PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES JOINT STRATEGY CONCEPT

GF291835 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Dec 80 p 3

[Jasim Ahmad an-Nisf report on interview with Kuwaiti Prime Minister and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah in Kuwait--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sa'd al-'Abdallah] We are optimistic over the return of normal parliamentary life in Kuwait. We hope the 4-year suspension of parliamentary life has achieved its goals and has led to comprehensive study of all past experience so it will be a lesson for future parliament members.

There is no intention to reshuffle the cabinet at present because elections are very near and a new cabinet will be formed following the elections. Because Article No 56 of the constitution states that cabinet members must not exceed one-third the number of parliament members, the new cabinet will undergo a decrease in numbers. There are 20 now, that is, more than one-third of the parliament members.

We in Kuwait are not alone in the region. The same applies to other Arab Gulf countries. No country in the region can work alone and in isolation of its brothers, particularly in facing the successive issues and our life causes.

Therefore, the amir proposed the Kuwaiti idea of a joint Gulf strategy to the Gulf leaders during the Arab summit held in Amman, a strategy that will not be confined to the political field but will embrace all fields and sectors without exception.

The Gulf leaders blessed the Kuwaiti concept, and the amir promised them to convey, after his return to Kuwait, the complete and final idea. During his tour Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad conveyed this concept through the messages he delivered to Saudi Monarch Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Sultan Qabus of Oman, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani, Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Kuwait's idea is based on bolstering political, economic, oil, cultural and military ties among Arab Gulf states within the framework of a joint comprehensive strategy. The Kuwaiti Government will draft a complete plan for this strategy with all details and dimensions after studying the Gulf leaders' replies to the idea as passed to them. A Gulf ministerial meeting may be held in Kuwait in the near future to discuss this plan. That meeting may result in setting up a joint Gulf committee charged with pursuing implementation of the strategy agreed upon and insuring constant comprehensive coordination in all fields.

As is known, Iraq announced that it would not accept any Arab mediation in its dispute with Iran, and we respected Iraq's will in this connection.

Now there is important news: Turkey is carrying out mediation efforts between Baghdad and Tehran, and Iraq has welcomed them. This came via Iraqi Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir at-Tawfiq.

We welcome any good-will efforts to halt the war between Iraq and Iran because this is in the interest of and bolsters the security of the whole Gulf region. It keeps it away from the arena of international conflicts.

SAUDI ARABIA

GOOD-OFFICES DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD

LD300724 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Dec 80

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Dec (SPA)--The fraternal good-offices committee this morning left Riyadh for Baghdad at the start of an Arab tour to bring about reconciliation among some Arab countries and to try to clear the air and return to Arab solidarity such as it was at the Baghdad and Tunis summits. The committee comprises Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, General Secretary of the Arab League Chedli Klibi, and Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH YAR, PAKISTAN

LD251116 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0750 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 Dec (SPA)--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz minister of defense and aviation, hopes that the third Islamic summit conference which is to be held in Mecca will succeed in serving Islam and the Muslims.

His Royal Highness made the statement after a meeting of the higher committee on the Islamic summit which he chaired yesterday at which the participants discussed the preparations that have been made for convening the Islamic summit.

Concerning the kingdom's relations with the fraternal YAR, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan said that Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz had already explained the firm relationship between the kingdom and the YAR and all the Arab brothers. Our relations are firm and they are derived from Islamic fraternity and good-neighborly ties.

His royal highness affirmed that there is no truth in the tendentious reports to the effect that there are differences between the two fraternal countries. He said that these reports, which are carried by malicious news agencies and press, are not new and are a cheap intrigue which has no basis in truth.

Concerning reports circulated by some news agencies to the effect that there is a military agreement between the kingdom and Pakistan concluded during the visit of His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Pakistan, His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that Pakistan has denied these reports and we do not need to issue another denial.

His highness affirmed that cooperation between the kingdom and Pakistan and all the Arab and Islamic states undoubtedly exists.

His royal highness the minister of defense and aviation said that the kingdom had not signed any military agreements with any state. The only thing it had signed was the joint Arab defense agreement.

TAIWAN-SAUDI COMMUNIQUE ON CULTURAL COOPERATION

OW271249 Taipei CNA in English 1014 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] Jidda, Dec 27 (CNA)--A final joint communique has been made public earlier this week after the conclusion of the third session of the Sino-Saudi Permanent Committee on Cultural Cooperation with pledges by both sides to strengthen their cultural and educational cooperation.

The main points of the communique are as follows:

--To promote the exchange of visits of university presidents and administrative personnel in the field of education to explore possible ways of cooperation and familiarize each with the other's educational system.

--To expand the programs for the exchange of students and youth groups.

--To initiate and strengthen the teaching and studying of the languages and cultures of the two countries to promote understanding and durable friendship, and to continue the offering of scholarships.

--To establish the relationship for cooperation in vocational education.

--To strengthen the exchange of information with special emphasis on the role played by the media in the history and civilization of each side to the other, and to coordinate with authorities concerned to implement the exchange of literary, cultural and artistic works. In this regard, the Chinese side renews an invitation for a Saudi cultural week to be held in Taipei.

--To exchange on a regular basis information on academic systems and practices with an eye to determining the equivalence of university degrees of both countries.

--To designate a permanent secretary by each side as a liaison for continued implementation and review of existing programs and for recommendation of new programs.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD ADDRESSES MILITARY COMMANDERS

LD292026 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Dec 80 EA

[Text] In the capital this afternoon, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and of the Council of Ministers, met the commanders of the armed forces in the presence of Brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, and Brother Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, candidate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee.

The secretary general spoke on a number of issues relating to strengthening and developing the armed forces and their contribution to the process of economic and social construction in the country in implementation of the decisions of the YSP extraordinary general congress.

In his address, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad called on the military and party leaders in the armed forces to promote the daily struggle relations between the military commanders and individuals and between the armed forces and the people.

He stressed that the YSP extraordinary general congress charged the armed forces with a number of tasks and responsibilities relating to strengthening the democratic national regime in democratic Yemen, as well as supporting the revolutionary process throughout the country, defending national sovereignty and protecting the homeland and the gains of the revolution.

In his speech, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad referred to the situation and developments in the region, saying that the imperialist circles, particularly the American ones, have during the past 2 years expedited action to consolidate their military and political presence in a number of neighboring areas, including the Sultanate of Oman, Somalia and Egypt, the aim being to heighten tension in the region. He explained that the responsibility for facing this tension is one to be borne by all forces and peoples struggling for peace and democracy and, above all, by the honest forces and peoples in this region.

Referring to the Soviet initiative on peace in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, he pointed out that the initiative stipulated that foreign military bases should not be established in the Gulf and peninsula; that no nuclear or other weapons be positioned there; that such weapons be neither used against nor used to threaten the Gulf countries; that there be no interference in their internal affairs; that their chosen nonaligned status be respected; that they are not to be involved in blocs to which the nuclear states belong; and that the sovereignty of the region's countries be respected. All these proposals contained in the constructive Soviet initiative constitute a firm foundation for security and stability. Our government has declared its wholehearted support for the initiative.

He stressed the need for action to foil the dangers of imperialist threats against the peoples of this region. The brother secretary general emphasized the need to work to create conditions more conducive to peace and security so that the people of the region can gain sufficient time to engage in the political activity needed for developing themselves and their states. He reiterated that while it struggles for peace democratic Yemen will also take every step needed to assure its economic and social development, as well as strengthening defense capacity in the interests of peace.

He concluded his address by expressing appreciation for the efforts of the soldiers, NCO's and officers of the armed forces in their courageous defense of the homeland and the gains of the revolution. He urged them to work hard to implement the military and political training programs for the coming year.

5-YEAR TRADE PACT SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

LD251558 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] A trade agreement for the next 5 years has been signed between democratic Yemen and the friendly Soviet Union. This was stated by Brother Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply, in a statement he made to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY this morning following his return to the PDRY from the Soviet Union after concluding a visit that lasted several days.

Brother al-Fadli stated that the agreement which was signed in Moscow included our country's requirements, namely development equipment for implementing projects of the amended second 5-year plan and consumer goods, in addition to the export of some national commodities to the friendly Soviet Union.

AS-SADAT, KISSINGER HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE 29 DEC

NC291535 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Excerpts] President Anwar as-Sadat and former U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger held a press conference in Mit Abu al-Kawm today. President as-Sadat began by welcoming Kissinger and said that the talks he had with him were fruitful.

President as-Sadat said: Not only did we discuss the situation in the area, but also the current international situation, particularly in this area. He further said: Our views were identical. He told Kissinger certain means [wasa'il] to convey to the new U.S. administration. He went on by saying that Kissinger helped us much in the peace cause and that he was behind the idea of the first disengagement of forces. Kissinger also played a role in the development of the Suez Canal and its preparation for navigation.

President as-Sadat said: Kissinger has achieved so much that it would take hours to talk about it.

President as-Sadat expressed the hope that in the future cooperation would begin and relations between Egypt and the United States are further strengthened for the next purpose for which we are working, namely, the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

Asked about the role Egypt is playing toward Afghanistan President as-Sadat said: We will provide the Afghan revolutionaries not only with arms but also funds, food and clothing. We will stand by them and will continue to do so.

Regarding Jordan's participation in the peace negotiations, President as-Sadat said that King Husayn has a role in the Camp David agreements and he must participate in the talks after we complete the establishment of autonomy for the Palestinians, because no one can speak on their behalf. President as-Sadat said that the United States is a full partner in the peace question. We would not have been able to achieve what we have achieved, had the United States not participated in the talks.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1818 GMT on 29 Dec carries a version of the As-Sadat-Kissinger press conference which adds the following comments by As-Sadat: "Replying to a question on whether he expects the Reagan administration's full cooperation on this matter [Jordan's role in the peace process], President as-Sadat replied: I have previously reiterated that I have to deal with anyone elected by the American people. You have probably heard me say that without the United States as a full partner in the peace process, we would not have attained what we have attained--starting with Henry [Kissinger] and up to President Carter. I believe this is a well-known fact in America, and I am optimistic. Replying to another question on whether the new U.S. administration is considering the insertion of several adjustments in the Camp David framework, the president replied: Why don't we wait until we conclude our contacts with the new administration? After this, I will be able to answer your question."]

MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF INTERVIEWED ON U.S. AID

NC262110 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Interview of Egyptian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah by Sana' as-Sa'id, host of "Dialogue With an Official" program; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency, Lieutenant General: Your recent visit to the United States has created the impression that the new U.S. administration is determined to take further steps in the domain of arming Egypt. Your Excellency, Lieutenant General, do you feel that the time has come for the United States to give Egypt the status of a friendly state?

[Answer] By God, during my recent visit the new administration made us feel that it is inclined toward a new armament policy, to be pursued toward this area and toward the world, to confront the Soviet threat existing throughout the world. In fact, it is requisite that the United States begin to seriously think about giving Egypt adequate armament to confront the dangers surrounding it from all sides.

I think that I had told you earlier that there are many dangers, whether from the west and the south or from other directions. Most of these dangers have basically been generated by a comprehensive Soviet plan aimed at controlling this area. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the United States to change its armament policy. It is imperative for the United States to give Egypt enough arms to make it capable of deterrence. The reason is that Egypt harbors no aggressive intentions. However, Egypt must be capable of deterring the dangers surrounding it.

[Question] What was your impression of your recent visit?

[Answer] We explained, in all clarity, to the members of the new Reagan administration--who are now regarded as candidates [for Cabinet posts] and who were met by his excellency the vice president--the threat surrounding Egypt: the Soviet penetration of the Arab Gulf, the Middle East and Africa, and the dangers which basically threaten Egyptian interests and U.S. interests, which are compatible with Egyptian interests. They understood these things. They also understood that, within the framework of this policy, it is imperative for them to provide us with arms for Egypt.

[Question] The United States is now committed to a huge program to reequip the Egyptian forces. How large is this program?

[Answer] The size of this program was announced earlier; it is the same plan on which agreement was reached with the Carter administration and it is valued at some $3.5 billion. This plan includes Phantom F-16 planes [as heard], tanks, armored cars and Hawk [missile] batteries. However, as far as we are concerned, and as far as development of armament is concerned, this amount is still inadequate. We still need more. We have actually emphasized the need for increasing military aid to Egypt and the need for helping Egypt the same way the United States helps its allies and friends. The reason is that we play a major role in the Middle East. Furthermore, there will be no stability in the Middle East without Egypt, without Egypt's strength and without its stability.

[Question] Your Excellency, Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, will you make another tour [of the United States] after Reagan takes office on 20 January?

[Answer] Let us wait until Reagan enters the White House, then we will find out what the major political trends will be. The political authority will then decide whether or not it is necessary for other trips to be made. God willing, and as I believe, other trips will be made.

[Question] Some people might wonder whether it is possible to acquire cheaper arms in return for the facilities which Egypt is granting the United States.

[Answer] By God, we do not always want to connect facilities with armament. Otherwise we would be trying to give the facilities a nature which would play into the hands of our foes of the rejectionist front, who are trying to call these facilities bases. We do have an armament program, but it has nothing to do with the facilities. We give these facilities in accordance with the political circumstances surrounding the area and in light of the military and strategic dangers. When these dangers end, the right to grant these facilities also ends. Armament has a program and facilities have a program; and there is no need to interconnect them.

[Question] May I again ask about the joint U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers? Following the maneuvers, which ended in November 1980, reports said that the United States would face difficulties in establishing the Rapid Deployment Force because it lacked a sufficient number of support troops as well as potential and speed, particularly when it comes to the long distances to be covered if we compare the United States with the Soviet Union, which can quickly reach the Orient given its presence in Afghanistan, which is considered a springboard to the Arab states, which are only a few hundred kilometers away. What is your viewpoint?

[Answer] U.S. strategy is mapped out by the U.S. Government. We have no right to interfere in the affairs of other states in general. However, we know that the Soviet Union is closer to the Middle East. Therefore, we advocate a policy of giving enough arms to the friendly states of the Middle East so they can confront the communist danger. This way these states will be able to be the focal point--or the main front--for opposing Soviet penetration. It is not in the interest of anyone in the world to have a confrontation take place between the Soviet Union and the United States. However, it is in the interest of the West and of the Middle East--that of Egypt and of the Arab states--that we wield enough power to face dangers. Egypt is the sole state capable of wielding such strength and of coming to the aid of the Arabs [words indistinct]. However, this does not mean that Saudi Arabia or the Emirates should not be strong because these states possess strong armed forces. However, because they started later than Egypt and because we are experienced in war, Egypt is inevitably the main power that strikes a balance in the Middle East. Furthermore, Egypt has the capability--men, science, training and expertise. We only need arms, and these arms are in the West.

It is imperative for the West to give us these arms at reasonable and low prices so that we wouldn't burden their economies and military budgets. [sentence as heard] Nevertheless, we are diversifying the sources of arms from all over the world without depending on just one source, as his excellency the president has announced at all times and in all his speeches. Naturally this is a wise policy.

[Question] Your Excellency, may I return to the joint maneuvers? I wonder whether they have indeed helped augment U.S. readiness to operate in the Gulf area. While concentrating on the joint maneuvers between Egypt and the United States, I speak of them from the perspective of mutual friendship and of the common enemy--namely, the Soviet Union.

[Answer] Actually, when we view the joint maneuvers, we realize that they were carried out by a minor, small unit. We must not always judge everything so quickly and so forcefully. The United States has strong military forces that enjoy a high degree of combat efficiency, that are trained and that have potential. However, the U.S. armed forces might not have combat experience in deserts like those found in the Middle East. This was the objective of the joint maneuver. The U.S. force would come and see our kind of desert where the topography is different, the weather conditions are different, and so on. There are many variables.

They benefited. They brought this small unit, training was completed and they gained experience. Now they will go back and begin to develop their training methods and tactics to confront these conditions, which are different from the conditions of the deserts in their country.

This signifies that they will begin to think about and develop their tactics. However, this does not signify that the United States does not have the capability to intervene militarily or to send forces to any place. I do not believe this because the United States has large armed forces. They are not weak forces, as some people have tried to depict them following the operation in Iran; that was merely a matter of luck and of bad conditions. Furthermore, any operation might fail in any part of the world, and no minor operation should be used to judge the armed forces.

I feel that the United States has greatly benefited from the joint maneuvers with us. We provided them with expertise in desert combat.

I want to mention a point, a surprising phenomenon. The United States has been intermarried with Israel for 30 years. Israel did not give them this expertise; we gave it to them in just one maneuver. This is the difference between striking a friendship with Egypt and with any other state.

[Question] Some people are spreading the rumor that peace and stability in the area cannot be achieved within the framework of establishing bases in the Middle East. However, peace and stability can be brought about by the United States' helping the states in the area to strengthen and develop their defenses. In other words, Your Excellency, they want to say that arms are the substitute for the U.S. military presence. In your opinion, to what extent is the United States ready to respond to such statements?

[Answer] President-elect Reagan will take office in January. I hope and believe that, through the discussions that have taken place with the Reagan men, they have begun to understand both the importance underlying the defense of this area by its own nations and the soundness of the method that this defense should stem from within this area. We also desire to point out that it is imperative for them to foster this process.

I believe that as one of their first major programs, the Americans should begin generating a strong momentum for the Western military industry to produce enormous quantities of arms so that the West will be able to face the terrific numbers that the Soviet Union is deploying everywhere. I said in the United States, when I granted an interview to the New York TIMES, that the arms now stocked in the Middle East were Soviet-made. Therefore, the states that are under Soviet influence have more arms than they can accommodate. These stockpiles of arms are merely emergency depots for the Soviet Union. It is imperative for the United States to think of a new strategy. It is incumbent on the United States to arm those states that are facing the Soviet bear.

[Question] In concluding this interview, I say a big thank you to Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, chief of staff of the armed forces.

[Answer] Thank you.

AL-BAZ INTERVIEWED ON AUTONOMY, U.S. RELATIONS

LD291525 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 26 Dec 80 pp 17, 18

['Adil Malak interview with Egyptian First Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz in Washington--date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Following the change in the U.S. administration after Ronald Reagan's victory what is the fate of the Camp David accords in the light of the existing belief that these accords are dependent upon the persons of As-Sadat and Carter?

Usamah al-Baz: I do not share the view that the Camp David accords are dependent upon individuals. Rather they are dependent upon countries at a specific period of time. The idea of peace is acceptable to all the Arab parties and Israel has also accepted it. We would like to test the sincerity of the wills of the various parties concerned. As for a specific formula, be it the Camp David formula or other formulas--a formula is, by nature, transitional and temporary.

I believe that the Camp David formula will not fall into oblivion or be dumped into a wastepaper basket; nor will it be replaced by a certain alternative.

Rather, we believe that as far as the new U.S. administration is concerned, as we have gathered from our preliminary contacts with some elements that are likely to play a prominent role in the new administration, the Camp David formula will remain respected and valid. This is despite the fact that they (Reagan's administration) do not exclude the possibility that the agreements might be implemented in a more flexible way. That is, should it transpire at a certain stage that this formula can be reinforced or improved by the inclusion of one or several parties to it or by adding something here or there, the new administration would show understanding toward such changes although such changes would not go as far as to produce an alternative to Camp David.

All this is only a hypothesis because the new administration has not yet formulated its stand on this matter. It is just a preliminary and initial forecast of what the new U.S. administration might pursue.

AL-HAWADITH: It must be admitted that the autonomy negotiations between Egypt and Israel under U.S. supervision have failed utterly. What alternative practical steps are there to break the deadlock in the negotiations and in the situation in the area as a whole?

Usamah al-Baz: We believe that the ideal way to get things moving is to bring pressure to bear on Israel during the talks. It is true, the autonomy talks so far have led to no tangible results and the success achieved so far mostly concerns procedural and formal matters and not the major aspects of the problem, most important of which is the powers of the autonomous Palestinian government. Certain parties have tried to give the impression that agreement has been reached on many issues but this is contrary to the truth. In fact we have not reached any agreement because we have strictly adhered to the Egyptian view of the Camp David formula or the autonomy formula which is based on substituting Palestinian control of the West Bank for the Israeli control with everything that will involve with respect to expanding the jurisdiction and powers of the autonomous government. We believe that the ideal path to follow in the coming period will be to resume and continue the negotiations with Israel while bringing pressure to bear on Israel in order to draw it closer to the Egyptian view. In this regard the U.S. administration might be in a better position to come round more to the Egyptian view. Should this happen, the situation will be given a "push" toward the reaching of an agreement.

AL-HAWADITH: President as-Sadat always reiterated that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards for the solution of the Middle East problem. How far is this estimate true and how much does President as-Sadat still adhere to it?

Usamah al-Baz: The idea that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards must be understood in its true context because some have misunderstood it and believed that by this we mean that the United States is in control, that we must be dependent upon it, that it must be the active factor while we remain merely its helpers, or that it must be the major party while we are merely the lackeys in this regard. This view is wrong because the Arab will, as expressed by Egypt and as expressed by some other countries and parties, and the Palestinian will, as expressed by the Palestinian people and their organization, is an effective will; it is a very important will and in no way can it be secondary to another will. What is meant by saying this is that the United States shoulders 99 percent of the responsibility. The reference here is not to the question of will but to responsibility and the United States has a responsibility in its capacity as the major ally of Israel and it is the ally that provides Israel with every kind of economic, military, political, and diplomatic support.

We also say this because the United States is one of the world's two superpowers, and, therefore, has the ability to move on both the regional and international levels. Consequently, we must expect the United States to play an active role; the idea is to determine the U.S. role and not to give in to the United States so that it may do as it likes.

AL-HAWADITH: In his first press statement following his election, President-elect Ronald Reagan said that he considers the PLO to be a terrorist organization which does not represent the Palestinian people. What is your comment on this?

Usumah al-Baz: What the president-elect or other politicians in the United States or elsewhere say does not affect the Arab decision on this matter. We have never seen a liberation organization in the world that was elected. The situation in the Palestinian homeland and in Palestinian circles outside Palestine does not permit of the holding of elections. Moreover, why should this point be raised about the PLO and not about other liberation organizations. The claim that the PLO is a terrorist organization is wrong because it is a political organization acting within a political framework as is evident in its activity in the international field and participation in world conferences.

With regard to some of the acts of violence which are attributed to the PLO or for which the PLO claims responsibility, we generally hope that the two sides will refrain from violence because the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza constitutes an act of violence since it is taking place by force of arms. Therefore, we do not wish that the PLO be described as terrorist and it is wrong to describe it as such because the idea of recourse to violence is not the basic element in the PLO's policy--the basic element is rather the quest for a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the truth about reports that Egypt has given military facilities to the United States?

Usamah al-Baz: We cannot possibly give the United States or anybody else military bases on our territory and no country will have the right to establish a military base in our country, whether it is called a base or anything else. What we are in fact concerned for is that neither the United States or anybody else should have any fixed military presence on our land or in our territorial waters. This is because we realize that this would be prejudiced to our sovereignty, rights, and interests and would not contribute to the achievement of stability in the area but rather would lead to greater tension. We realize that every action produces a reaction and, therefore, we were the first to avoid polarization in the area. We still believe that such polarization constitutes a great danger. We were the first to call for the prevention of foreign interference in the area and we realize that the establishment of military bases is a very advanced form of foreign interference which we cannot possibly allow. We are against bases even if they are not called bases. We are fundamentally against them; we are against them even if they are called "facilities."

AL-HAWADITH: What then would you call the military facilities that were given to the United States?

Usamah al-Baz: The facilities that we have agreed to provide are quite different from bases because they do not involve any fixed and regular presence. Rather, use is made of the facilities during very limited periods of time; use is made of the facilities at Egyptian, not U.S., bases and under Egyptian sovereignty and control as well as under Egyptian command. These facilities do not include the presence of forces. When we give approval for this, we do so for each separate occasion or each separate operation and for purposes for which we have given prior approval. If the purpose is unknown to us or if it is for something other than defending an Arab or Islamic country then we do not approve it. This is not a right enjoyed by the United States but a permit that we can grant or deny the United States or any other country. For this reason we have shown readiness to grant such facilities to other countries. If it were a matter of bases it would probably have been useful for the area for us to have granted this to other countries but since it is an Egyptian base we have offered to grant facilties to other West European countries if they wish to take part in peace-keeping in the area and in defending it against any external threat. [sentence as publsihed]

For this reason we absolutely cannot accept the establishment of bases on our territory nor do we believe that it is in the interest of the Arab homeland and the Middle East that pressures be brought to bear on peoples and countries for the establishment of bases in those countries.

AL-HAWADITH: What about Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union; is there anything new in them?

Usamah al-Baz: There is nothing new in Egyptian-Soviet relations. We are still prepared to establish normal and ordinary relations with the Soviet Union if the Soviets so desire.

EGYPT TO GET NUCLEAR REACTORS FROM U.S.

NC251903 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt has initialed with the United States agreements for the establishment of nuclear power stations. Negotiatons have also been held for this purpose with France, Canada, Britain and Australia.

In a statement to our reporter, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt's ratification of the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons is a condition for supplying Egypt with nuclear power stations. He added that the Cabinet recently approved this treaty, which will be submitted to the Parliamentary Committee of the National Democratic Party prior to its submission to the People's Assembly for ratification.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that from now until the year 2000 Egypt will need about 10 nuclear power stations for its projects.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AGREEMENT TO BE RATIFIED

NC241614 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)--During its meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the Cabinet condemned Libya's intervention in Chad. The Cabinet's secretary general, Counselor 'Adil 'Abd al-Baqi, said after the 6-hour meeting that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali reviewed foreign affairs in general, dwelling in particular on Egypt's position on the Chadian issue and its condemnation of Libya's intervention.

'Abd al-Baqi added that the Cabinet agreed to proceed with steps to ratify the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, signed by Egypt in 1968. Kamal Hasan 'Ali earlier explained that it was in Egypt's interest to ratify the agreement because it would confirm its peaceful couse and good intentions as well as enable those countries with nuclear expertise to cooperate with Egypt in constructing nuclear powerplants.

PARLIAMENT REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN STRUGGLERS

NC291800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)--In a statement they issued after a joint meeting today, the People's Assembly Arab Affairs and Foreign Relations Committees reaffirm the support of Egypt--the government and people--for the struggle of the Afghan strugglers against the Soviet invasion and their own backing for this struggle.

Chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee Muhammad Hamid Mahmud spoke at the meeting which was attended by the leaders of the Afghan strugglers, who are currently in Cairo, and by the Labor Party leader, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri. He praised the struggle of the Afghan fighters against the Soviet invasion in defense of their homeland and of Islam and the Muslims. He reaffirmed that, led by the faithful President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, Egypt--the people and government--backs and supports this struggle with arms, blood, food and clothes, as President as-Sadat put it.

Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Muhammad 'Abdallah also praised the struggle of the Afghan people against the Soviet invasion of their lands. He pointed out that the Soviet reluctance to interfere in Poland is due to the stiff resistance which it encounters in Afghanistan with the conventional weapons in addition to what they encountered when they occupied Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He emphasized that Egypt supports the Afghan fighters in their struggle against communism.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri also emphasized that under the leadership of President as-Sadat, Egypt--the government and opposition--backs the Afghan people's struggle with all its material, moral and political resources. He called on the Afghan strugglers to unite their ranks behind one flag rallying all Afghans to resist the Soviet communist invasion and defend their country and Islam against atheism.

Chairman of the Afghan National Front (Sibghatallah al-Mujaddadi) then spoke. He expressed the gratitude of the Afghan people to President Anwar as-Sadat and the Egyptian people and government for their material and moral support for the Afghan strugglers in their resistance of the Soviet invasion of their country. He appealed to Egypt to support their struggle at the international quarters, explain the just cause of the Afghan people and criticize the savage attacks which the atheist Soviets are committing against the people in Afghanistan.

Chairman of the Afghan Islamic Movement (Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi) spoke afterwards. He appealed to the Islamic states to follow Egypt's suit and give aid, including weapons, to the Afghan strugglers and not be content by statements and slogans only. He expressed the gratitude of the Afghan people to Egypt and its President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat for the material and military aid they extend to the Afghan strugglers. He said that Egypt is the only Arab country which is providing such aid.

(Sayyid Muhammad Musa), a leader of the Afghan strugglers, then spoke. He praised Egypt for having resisted the enemies of Islam throughout history and for supporting the struggle of the Afghan fighters with all its available means.

EGYPT REQUESTS POSTPONEMENT OF AUTONOMY TALKS

NC271510 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] Egypt has asked for a postponement of the meetings of the autonomy negotiations until after the middle of January. The negotiations were scheduled to begin on 13 and 14 January at the technical level. During the meetings, experts from Egypt, the United States and Israel will discuss ways to build confidence among the Palestinian people and to achieve autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza.

MENA REPORTS ON AL-AHRAM INTERVIEW WITH POPE

NC240953 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)--Pope John Paul II, the pope of Rome, has announced his condemnation of the "irresponsible" actions taken by Israel to annex Jerusalem.

The pope pointed out that the Israeli measures on Jerusalem show Israel's lack of a sense of responsibility toward the international community, which condemned these measures.

In a special interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM, published today, Pope John Paul affirmed that the talk about Jerusalem deepens his religious responsibility and the world's need for peace, because the solution of this problem is the basis of peace, and a breakthrough on this problem will give the peace process in the Middle East more momentum than any other action. Pope John Paul II called on the members of all religions to take a clear, frank and responsible attitude toward the Jerusalem issue.

In his first press interview addressed to the Arab world immediately after his return from his historic visit to West Germany, the native land of Martin Luther, the pope affirmed that Jerusalem will remain the living embodiment of coexistence among the believers of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions.

The pope of Rome added that it is not acceptable for anyone to consider the special status of Jerusalem within the framework of annexation of expansion, but rather Jerusalem should remain an open city for all believers on an equal basis. This is because the people of the whole world have spiritual and religious interests and aspirations in the holy city. He referred in this regard to the links which Islam and Christianity have with the holy city.

Explaining the status of Jerusalem, the pope said that it is one center for several religions, and no one nation can exclusively own or govern it. It is necessary to have a stable situation, internationally for the peoples of the three religions and legally, in order to safeguard the heritage of this city and to insure coexistence on an equal basis among the followers of these religions in the city.

In this respect the pope announced the Vatican's firm rejection of reports that it is sufficient to guarantee the right of approach to the holy places for all people, while the city must remain united with a Jewish character and rule.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM the pope said that the Vatican is demanding the endorsement of the following principles regarding Jerusalem:

1. Safeguarding the religious and spiritual heritage and the special status of Jerusalem for the three sacred religions by all the appropriate international means.

2. Establishing the right of freedom of belief in all respects for the members of the three religions in the holy city.

3. Insuring the continuation and development of the spiritual and social life of the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the city.

4. Insuring full equality in treatment among all the religions in the city.

5. These proposals would be implemented through legal means, not stemming from the desire and will of one side, but stemming from the desire, will and decision of all the sides, because changing the principal features of Jerusalem or distorting its religious and cultural appearance will gradually lead it to become a regular place devoid of the spirit of religious faith.

6. Safeguarding the rule rights of the Jews, Christians and Muslims over their synagogues, churches and mosques and all their spiritual places, research and study centers in the city so the holy city can serve as an example of tolerance and coexistence among all believers.

7. The proposed legal formula represents a special distinguished character for this holy city and stems from the interest and hopes of all the members of the heavenly religions, and represents the international aspect for all the believers in these religions in the various continents of the world.

Concluding his talk about Jerusalem the pope said that it is a city for God and not the capital of any single state, and "the will of God is stronger than the will of states and peoples."

Pope John Paul II depicted President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem as a secular and political reply to Christ's visit to Egypt some 2,000 years ago, from the spiritual and religious perspectives.

The pope appealed to all the churches of the world to play a cardinal role in the completion of the steps which President as-Sadat has taken on the path toward peace. He also expressed the desire that Israel refrain from placing itself as an obstacle on the road leading to fulfillment of the objectives of the historic visit to Jerusalem. The pope also announced that the Vatican advocates the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

To a question about the pope's viewpoint on the religious complex proposed by President Anwar as-Sadat, Pope John Paul stressed the Vatican's appreciation of the project's importance. The pope also described this project as "a true testimony to our common existence--religiously, spiritually and intellectually." In this respect, the pope declared that he extends his encouragement and dedicates everything he possesses to contributing to the speeding up of the achievement of the "historic and noble" idea of the complex.

Answering a question about the proposals which the Vatican has made on the creation of an atmosphere of understanding in the Middle East under the aegis of the peace agreements, Pope John Paul II expressed his deep appreciation of Egypt's role and of its struggle and sacrifices for the sake of achieving peace and for upholding God's words. The pope also expressed his appreciation of Egypt for bearing the brunt of the defense of the divine religions and of the defense of the just causes of humanity and of all mankind.

The pope of Rome affirmed that the peace initiative carried out by Egypt at Camp David violently fired the imagination and conscience of all the people of the world. This initiative has also become the greatest fact in our modern century, "because it has dissipated the smell of gunpowder from the most important part of the world."

The pope said that this initiative has proved in the name of realism the bankruptcy of the policy of threatening with military solutions and with bloody wars. In this respect, the pope noted that President as-Sadat's personality has set an example to be followed--an example of a distinguished statesman, a matured politician and an inspired leader who translated his words into historical actions and support for the achievement of formidable projects.

To a question about the dialogue among the three religions, namely, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and about the possibility that this dialogue will yield results in the near future, Pope John Paul explained that the dialogue among the divine religions is aimed at setting sublime and divine criteria for discriminating between right wrong, wisdom and ignorance and righteousness and falsehood. This dialogue is also aimed at proliferating the divine teachings, which have won the consensus of all the religions.

The Roman pope indicated that he adheres to the dialogue among the religions, despite the fact that some difficulties still face this dialogue because a just and comprehensive peace has not yet been achieved in the Middle East.

In this respect, the pope condemned those who sow the seeds of thorns, hatred and sorrow in this world.

Response to Vatican

NC250805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA)--In today's edition, the newspaper AL-AHRAM affirms that the interview of his holiness the pope on the Middle East issue and Jerusalem, which was published in yesterday's edition of AL-AHRAM, was obtained through the usual official channels. AL-AHRAM also emphasizes that the questions were asked of his holiness the pope through official channels, adding that the Vatican foreign minister had personally delivered the answers to these questions.

AL-AHRAM cites the following facts in their chronological sequence:

1. A delegation consisting of Emile Wahbah, member of the Consultative Council, and Tal'at Yunan, AL-AHRAM'S correspondent, made an appointment for an audience with his holiness the pope. The answers of his holiness were scheduled to be handed to the delegation after the audience. However, an indisposition compelled Tal'at Yunan to stay behind and enter a hospital. Therefore, the answers of his holiness the pope were personally handed by the Vatican foreign minister to Emile Wahbah immediately after the latter's audience with his holiness the pope.

2. The stance of his holiness the pope on the question of Jerusalem, as published by AL-AHRAM, is identical to [the stance] published in L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, the Vatican's official organ.

3. The interview with his holiness the pope, which Tal'at Yunan had written to AL-AHRAM, was to Consultative Council member Emile Wahbah because Yunan was taken sick and was being attended by doctors in London. However, this event does not negate the fact that the interview is indeed the one conducted with his holiness the pope.

An official Vatican spokesman yesterday denied that his holiness the pope had answered questions asked of his holiness by Al-AHRAM on the Middle East issue and on Jerusalem.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY BANS ALGERIAN OVERFLIGHTS

NC270734 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)--AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that it has been decided to stop all Algerian Airways planes from passing over Egypt or landing at Egyptian airports in retaliation for a similar decision adopted by Algerian authorities this month. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that Algerian authorities are now seeking to hold discussions on reoperating Algerian flights because Algerian planes benefitted more from passing over Egyptian territory.

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST BANI-SADR REPORTED

JN301148 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 30 Dec 80

[Text] Paris, 30 Dec (INA)--Iranian sources disclosed here today that an assassination attempt was recently carried out against Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in the township of Hamadan. The attempt left the Iranian president with injuries to the head and right arm. Bani-Sadr spent 2 days in an Iranian hospital. The sources asserted that 15 Khomeyni guards were executed following a secret trial in Dezful on charges of carrying out the attempt. Defense Minister General Fakuri supervised the trial.

BAGHDAD VIEWS MOTIVES IN HOSTAGES ISSUE

JN291747 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The hostages issue has never been nor will ever be more important to Washington than its own vital interests, particularly its oil interests in Iran and the region. Just as the centers of power in Iran exploited the hostages issue in their internal conflicts to utilize the Iranian people's deep-rooted enmity toward Washington, the United States exploited the hostages issue to intensify its military presence in the Arab Gulf, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean; namely, inside and around the oilfields and oil routes. However, the deteriorating political, economic and military situation in Iran, which is a result of the ruling clique's suspect practices, has caused them to exploit the hostages issue as a tool for laying bridges, crossing over to Washington and normalizing relations with it.

This fact was noted by the London paper THE TIMES, which said: There are political, economic and military reasons that force the Iranian authorities to find a solution to the hostages problem with the United States. The paper adds: The return of Iran's relations with Washington to their natural position will clearly be in Iran's interest. However, the U.S. paper the Washington POST was more analytical. After listing the political, economic and military factors that will force Iran to release the hostages at the outset of President-elect Ronald Reagan's term of office, the paper says: It is now certain that the next few days will reveal the expected Iranian step in regard to the hostages. Will Iran put an end to this issue, or will it continue to use the issue as a tool for applying pressure, in order to entrench its internal political position?

Although the Iranian rulers are eager to put an end to the hostages issue and to normalize relations with the United States, the latter is not in a hurry. Washington is waiting for the right opportunity, when the Iranian fruit will fall into its basket without the exertion of any effort on its part. The bloody conflict between the centers of power in Tehran; the successive defeats of the Iranians in the face of the heroic Iraqi troops; the developing struggle by the oppressed non-Persian nationalities, which has culminated in the Kurdish revolutionaries' complete control over Iranian Kurdistan; the exacerbating economic crisis; the prevalence of chaos, bribes and nepotism; the increasing wrath and demonstrations against the regime's leaders and symbols, which have lost their alleged holiness and whose true colors have been shown: All of these factors will create that opportunity and bring its occurrence closer.

Thus Washington has not severed the cord completely. Rather, it resumed its negotiations with Tehran through the Algerian mediator and other mediators in order to tame the Tehran rulers and to gain time until that opportunity arises and until the contradictions and crises inside Iran reach the point of decisive interaction. Then Washington will be able to push the powers and symbols with which it desires to deal into the arena of events; no doubt these will be represented by the military institution, which it built, and whose cadres it trained and prepared throughout the last quarter century of the shah's rule. Even Bani-Sadr, Qotbzadeh, Yazdi and the rest of Washington's loyal men simply represent a bridge which will be crossed by an Americanized general who will work to tighten the U.S. grip in Iran.

At the beginning Carter and his secretary of state, Muskie, gradually won over the Tehran rulers through their encouraging statements which were made prior to the U.S. presidential elections. However, Muskie himself said a few days ago that he considered the Iranian demands to be impossible ones. He also pointed out that these conditions demand action that goes beyond any U.S. president's power. In order to make the Tehran rulers even more desperate, the U.S. secretary of state added: We have learned that what the Iranians openly declare includes very little of what they tell us secretly.

With the transfer of the entire hostages issue to the care of U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan, the U.S. media made deceitful insinuations that the inflexible Reagan might prepare for military action to release the hostages. Naturally, such a possibility is absolutely unlikely to occur. This is, in fact, only part of the psychological warfare by which Washington is paving the road on which the military can march toward Qom and Tehran.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL ON INTENTIONS IN IRAN

LD291313 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Dec 80 p 4

[By Charles Nevin]

[Text] Bagdhad--Iraq has no permanent territorial ambitions within Iran, Dr 'Ismat Kitany, deputy Iraqi foreign affairs minister, reaffirmed at the weekend.

Speculation to the contrary in Baghdad has been steadily brewing in the wake of recent developments in the occupied areas of the southern Iranian oil province of Khuzestan which has a large Arab majority.

The Iraqis call it Arabistan. Schools, stores and medical centres, often dedicated to President Husayn have been opened in the captured Iranian trading port of Khorramshahr, again only recognised under its old Arab name of Muhammarah.

Last week members of the Arab popular movement in Arabistan, which claims to be waging a successful guerrilla war against the Iranians, were brought to Baghdad to publicise their clause.

But, in an interview with THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, Dr Kitany declared: "We have no ambitions on Iranian territories beyond our own territories. We want them to recognise our rights in our territories."

Dr Kitany confirmed that these rights were complete sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and of the disputed northern and central border areas of Zayn al-Qaws and Seif Saad and an end to Iranian border infringements and interference in Iraqi domestic affairs.

On Khuzestan, he said that the people there, as with other Iranian minorities, were seeking self-government. "We cannot tell them not to," he said. "That is something that concerns them and the Iranian Government.

"We cannot oppose Iran giving autonomy to the Kurds and the Arabs after we have done so for the Kurds. We think it is fair and just for the Iranian people to ask for autonomy.

"It should be looked on in that context rather than Iraq trying to dismember Iran permanently."

Dr Kitany pointed out that there had been Arab schools in Khorramshahr before the war and that Iraqi efforts there were part of an attempt to bring life back to the occupied areas.

He outlined the process by which Iraq would like to see the war ended. Iraq was offering a ceasefire without any preconditions to be immediately followed by negotiations either bilaterally or through a third party "with the hope of arriving at a comprehensive settlement on all outstanding issues."

"We want to stop the bloodshed and start negotiating" he said. "We want to settle this once and for all--we don't want war breaking out every four years."

Dr Kitany said that there would be little or no room for negotiation on the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and the disputed border areas.

On the prospects of Ayatollah Khomeyni and his regime agreeing to a ceasefire and negotiations, the doctor said: "I think a lot of people have learned over the last year or more that it is extremely risky to make predictions about what Khomeyni and the rest of his regime will do.

"No-one knows what Iran's positions and policies are quite often and that is a major obstacle. Sometimes we wonder if they have a position."

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 192

JN271801 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Communique No 192 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 27 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With great enthusiasm and high morale our armed forces continue to strike at the remnants of the racist Persian enemy and to inflict heavy losses on them in material and personnel. The results of their activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Yesterday evening an enemy unit tried to approach our frontline forces' positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. The enemy unit was engaged with light weapons and artillery and forced to retreat after sustaining 20 dead.
B. Yesterday afternoon enemy vehicles were seen moving opposite our forces in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Artillery fire was opened on the enemy vehicles setting fire to three of them.
C. Enemy troop concentrations were sighted oposite one of our forces in the Mahran region. Fire was opened with light weapons and artillery forcing the enemy troops to flee. The enemy forces left behind 20 dead.
D. Yesterday evening one of our fighting patrols clashed with enemy forces in the Dezful sector killing six of the enemy, destroying two vehicles and two 106-mm guns and setting fire to and destroying an ammunition stockpile.
E. This morning an enemy unit was sighted opposite our forces in the Shush region. The enemy unit was engaged with light weapons and mortars forcing it to flee. The enemy unit left behind six dead.
F. Yesterday evening our forces clashed with an enemy unit that tried to approach its frontline positions in the Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] region forcing it to retreat. The enemy unit left behind 20 dead, 1 tank, 1 troop carrier, 2 vehicles, one of which was loaded with ammunition, and 1 mortar.
G. This morning enemy troop concentrations were sighted opposite our frontline forces in the Ahvaz region. The enemy soldiers were engaged with light weapons and mortars forcing them to retreat. The enemy left behind 10 dead.
H. Yesterday evening our frontline forces in the Abadan region engaged enemy concentrations and our fighting patrols attacked enemy positions inflicting the following losses: 29 killed; 4 tanks, 6 vehicles, one of which was loaded with ammunition, 6 guns of different calibers, 3 ammunition stockpiles, and 1 steamshovel. Two fuel dumps were set on fire and destroyed in Abadan.
I. This morning our naval forces attacked a medium size enemy naval target south of Bisheh in the Shatt al-'Arab. The enemy target was sunk.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 107 killed; 5 tanks, 1 troop carrier, 13 vehicles, 9 guns of different calibers, 4 ammunition stockpiles, 1 steamshovel, 2 fuel dumps and 1 medium size naval target.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: The following were damaged: one armored car, four vehicles and five small engineering boats on the Karun River.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1980

Communique No 193

JN281723 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Communique No 193 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant armed forces continued with high efficiency to destroy enemy remnants in their operational sectors last night and today. The outcome of their activities is as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy force tried to approach one of our forward units in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area last night. It was repulsed with various weapons and forced to flee leaving behind 28 dead.
B. Nine killed in the Sumar area.
C. One killed and one vehicle destroyed in the Mehran area.
D. Our combat patrols attacked enemy positions and our artillery shelled enemy personnel concentrations in the Dezful sector inflicing the following losses on the enemy: 26 killed; 4 vehicles, 2 mortars and 1 pile of hardware destroyed.
E. Our units intercepted an enemy armor and infantry force that tried to approach our forward positions near Khafajiyeh [Susangerd]. They engaged this force with various weapons and forced it to retreat. Our units also raided enemy positions in the same area. Known enemy losses were 97 dead. In addition, three tanks; two armored personnel carriers; three vehicles, two loaded with charlatan Khomeyni's guards; and one TOW rocket launcher were destroyed. Moreover, one helicopter was shot down.
F. Our forward units in Ahvaz area intercepted an enemy force that tried to approach our forward positions. They also hit enemy personnel concentrations with various weapons inflicting the following losses on the enemy: 32 killed; 1 vehicle, 2 guns and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed.
G. Our forward units in the Abadan area engaged enemy personnel concentrations with various weapons and defeated their attempts to approach our forward positions inflicting the following grave losses on them: 29 were killed; 1 tank, 1 stockpile of hardware and 4 vehicles, 1 loaded with personnel, were destroyed. Further, two boats were sunk in the Karun River and one helicopter was shot down.

Thus, total known enemy losses are 222 dead; 4 tanks; 2 armored personnel carriers; 13 vehicles, 3 loaded with personnel; 5 guns of various calibers; 2 boats; 3 stockpiles of hardware; 1 rocket launcher; and 2 helicopters.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 10 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two tanks, two vehicles and one mortar were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1980

Communique No 194

JN291724 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Communique No 194 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 29 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Three killed and two vehicles destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zhab area.
B. One killed in the Sumar area.
C. Two killed and two vehicles destroyed in the Mehran area.
D. An enemy force tried to approach the positions of one of our forward units in the Shush area. Our unit clashed with this force with various weapons and forced it to retreat leaving behind 15 dead. Our unit seized 102 crates of 120-mm mortar shells and a quantity of various ammunition left behind by the enemy in previous battles. All are serviceable.
E. Two vehicles, one loaded with personnel, and one gun were destroyed in the Dezful area.
F. Our units engaged enemy concentrations in front of their positions in the area of Khafajiyeh [Susangerd]--inflicting the following losses on the enemy: 45 dead; 1 gun, 1 steamshovel and 1 observation post.
G. Our units clashed with an enemy force that tried to approach our forward positions in the Ahvaz area. They forced it to retreat and inflicted the following losses on it: 13 dead, 1 tank, 1 gun and 1 steamshovel.
H. Our forward units in Abadan engaged enemy concentrations in front of their positions inflicting the following losses: four dead; one tank; five vehicles one loaded with personnel; one gun; one stockpile of hardware; and one steamshovel.
I. Our air force planes raided enemy military positions in the Dehloran area scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to their bases.

Thus, known enemy losses are: 83 dead; 2 tanks; 11 vehicles, 2 loaded with personnel; 4 guns of various calibers; 1 stockpile of hardware; 3 steamshovels; and a large quantity of ammunition.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, two vehicles and one armored vehicle were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 December 1980

ARABISTAN 'SPOKESMAN' REPUDIATES KHOMEYNI CLAIMS

JN270812 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0300 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] Arabistan--A spokesman for the Arab mass movement in Arabistan has reiterated that the claims of charlatan Khomeyni to extending bridges of harmony with the sons of Arabistan are nothing but a new lie to add to his record of lies. In a statement to INA, the Arabistan official said that facts can never be distorted. The charlatan of Qom is trying to deceive the world into believing that harmony exists with some sons of Arabistan.

Commenting on foreign news agency reports that Khomeyni has met with representatives of Arab tribesmen, the Arabistan official said this is merely an effort to escape the mounting wave of indignation overwhelming the Iranian peoples, including the Arabistan people who are now celebrating their revolution against the tyrants who have been humiliating them since the occupation of 1925. The spokesman added that Khomeyni's impudence has extended to claiming that he has met with representatives of Arab tribesmen, whose sons were executed a few days ago. Moreover, hundreds of the Arabistan sons were executed for struggling against Khomeyni's clique in order to regain their national and legitimate rights.

The spokesman then related Khomeyni's criminal acts against the Iranian Kurds, pointing out that Khomeyni is annihilating Kurdish women and children. The spokesman said: We have invited the foreign correspondents who attended our press conference to visit the Arabistan towns and view closely the tragedy experienced by our people there. The correspondents, he added, will thus see the realities.

He said that Khomeyni went beserk when the Arab liberation army--the hero Iraqi Army--stormed Iran's Kurdistan, which had been oppressed by Khomeyni's tyranical clique. He added that Khomeyni cannot hide the facts because the Arab liberation army has taken up positions there. Khomeyni's clique will never manage to drive back this army irrespective of its acts and lies.

The spokesman said that it was Khomeyni's fear of the Iranian peoples' revolution that prompted him to fabricate this exposed lie. He pointed out that Khomeyni's last resort is to fabricate lies which can never deceive healthy minds regardless of their affiliation and stand.

KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS HUSAYN, DEPARTS

JN281320 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, concluded a short visit to Iraq and left Baghdad for home today. Earlier, the Kuwaiti minister had conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from the Kuwaiti amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, dealing with the latest developments in the Arab homeland and means to consolidate fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

VOICE OF IRAQI REVOLUTION PROGRAMMING REPORTED

JN221937 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Iraqi Revolution, unheard since 20 November, was intercepted in progress at 1515 GMT on 22 December 1980 broadcasting in Kurdish on 6885 kHz. The radio was heard in Surani and Bahdinani Kurdish until 1555 GMT. It was then heard in Arabic until its 1601 GMT signoff. The programming was as follows:

1. Radio intercepted in progress carrying Surani Kurdish reports on operations of the "heroes of Kurdistan" against the Iraqi regime's army on 7 December. The radio claimed that two helicopters had been downed and that one officer and four soldiers had been killed for the loss of three peshmerga.
2. Kurdish national songs
3. History of a martyr
4. Summary in Bahdinani of above news reports
5. Music
6. Talk in Surani on the "successive reactionary Iraqi governments for the past 22 years"
5. Songs
6. Talk in Bahdinani on the need to establish a national front for all the democratic and patriotic organizations and parties in order to establish a national government in Iraq and ensure the Iraqi people's rights
7. Music
8. Talk in Surani criticizing the war with Iran and the military statements of the Iraqi forces "which are false and forged propaganda"
9. Music
10. Arabic portion: opening announcement: "This is the Voice of the Iraqi revolution. This is the voice of the solidarity of struggle between the fraternal Arab and Kurdish people to overthrow the fascist authorities in Baghdad and to bring in a democratic coalition government under which genuine autonomy for Kurdistan will be achieved." The radio then carried what it called "Kurdistan news," which were the same reports as those carried in Kurdish.
11. Signoff at 1601 in Kurdish followed by Kurdish national anthem

KUWAITI SOURCE DENIES GULF SUMMIT TO BE HELD

JN260740 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Text] A Kuwaiti source has denied reports that it is possible that a summit conference of Gulf countries will be held in Kuwait prior to the Islamic conference scheduled for January 1981 in Saudi Arabia. The same source said that Kuwait had no knowledge of such a meeting and that reports that a summit conference of Gulf countries is to be held are incorrect.

MOROCCANS REPORTEDLY TO TRAIN IRAQIS ON MIRAGE-1

JN250908 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Rabat--Official sources have disclosed that Morocco intends to send a number of its pilots to Iraq to train Iraqi pilots on Mirage-1 aircraft, which Iraq will be receiving soon from France. These sources said the Moroccan pilots' mission will be temporary, ending with the training of Iraqi pilots in flying these French fighter planes.

AL-AKHBAR: NO RESPONSE TO SYRIAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN

JN271248 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] The Syrian media continue their campaigns against Jordan at a time when we in this country reject such campaigns out of our concern for this nation's interests and for clearing the Arab atmosphere. On this subject and under the headline, "What Is the Meaning of This Continuing Syrian Information Campaign Against Jordan," AL-AKHBAR says: Despite the hope and efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere of everything that might hinder this nation's capability to confront the increasing dangers, discordant voices are still being heard from Damascus rejecting the voice of logic and reason. These voices are being dragged into the current from which our nation has suffered and continues to suffer as a result of its effects.

The Syrian media are continuing their campaigns and allegations against Jordan because we reject hegemony, blackmail, and the policy of axis. Syria attacks Jordan through intrigues and slander which Syria knows more than anyone else misrepresent Jordan's commitment to its pan-Arab stand, which Syria had been the first to praise and describe as the basic pillar of the unified Arab stand.

We have sought in this country to disregard the Syrian media's campaigns and to avoid replying to them not because we are weak and incapable of doing so, but because we do not want to follow behavior which we regard as evidence of the bankruptcy of those who resort to it, and, out of our concern for this nation's interests, we want to focus on the successful Arab efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and to participate in bringing about positive results.

We very much hope that the Syrian media will abandon their course, which lacks good taste and is rejected by ethics, logic and reason and pan-Arab interests. Our brothers in Syria know that we are not only capable of replying to their media, but also have ample information and facts to do so. However, we do not want to follow the style of insults and abuses which has exhausted much of our nation's capabilities and brought it defeat.

We in Jordan have nothing to hide and nothing we are afraid to reveal. Our policy is stable and clear to all. Our pan-Arab stands are clear and stable as demonstrated by our commitment to the pan-Arab course which the nation has approved at all its summits. This commitment is dictated by our convictions. We reject threats and pressure and we do not accept bargaining because we have ethics and principles which we adhere to in our words, actions and stands.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER VISITS, TALKS WITH AL-ASAD

Arrival Statement

JN291352 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ba'uf al-Kasm received Labanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in his office at 1130 today. Talks were held between Dr al-Kasm and Al-Wazzan, which were attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus from Beirut at 1015 today on a 1-day visit to Syria. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and several ministers received the Lebanese prime minister at Damascus International Airport. After the playing of the Syrian and Lebanese national athems, Dr al-Kasm and Al-Wazzan inspected the honor guard. The Lebanese prime minister then shook hands with those who welcomed him. Dr al-Kasm and Al-Wazzan proceeded to the guest palace in an official motorcade.

In a statement to reporters, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan clarified the purpose of his visit to Syria. He expressed his pride in making this first official visit saying: I believe that the official nature of this visit does not change any of my sentiments toward a fraternal state, of which I am proud. I am also proud of the wise leadership of this state, and here I refer to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Wazzan added that this visit is for the purpose of strengthening bilateral relations and ties. We have always considered and still consider the ties linking the two peoples and states to be special. Since our government was recently formed and received a vote of confidence, we found it necessary to immediately implement the ministerial statement--on the basis of which we received the vote of confidence--particularly as pertains to relations between the states of Syria and Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan stated that we are going through a critical stage, which is greatly threatening our common fate as two states in this particular region. Thus, as we said in the statement, consultations, joint action and coordination are necessary. I hope that my visit will be in line with the bases of this framework.

Al-Wazzan added: My talks with the brother officials in Syria will deal with the issues with which we in Syria and Lebanon are preoccupied. These issues are nearly the same, particularly since we are both being subjected to dangers. We also have our special issues in Lebanon and problems of which everyone is aware.

Ever since the outbreak of events in Lebanon, we have been aided by fraternal Syria. This aid began with its first political initiative at the outset of the events and has continued up to now, as manifested by the presence of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF], which are carrying out basic duties through safeguarding security. It was mainly thanks to the ADF that the fighting, since the beginning of events, has been stopped.

Al-Wazzan affirmed that regional events are imposing themselves and must have a special place in our joint talks.

In conclusion, Al-Wazzan thanked President Hafiz al-Asad and top Syrian officials for the hospitality accorded him saying: We hope that we will succeed in achieving our goals. I am confident that we will succeed, since I know that the Syrian officials, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad, harbor great love. [sentence as heard]

In a statement Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm welcomed the Lebanese prime minister saying: As we receive the Lebanese prime minister we feel that we are receiving our brother in his country and among his people. It is natural for the brothers in Syria and Lebanon to meet regarding any events that might take place in either country.

Dr al-Kasm expressed confidence that, during this visit, decisions will be reached that will be in the interest of Lebanon, its people and nation. Al-Kasm added: This meeting really represents a beginning toward enriching joint efforts, which are exerted by the two fraternal states in the interest of Lebanon and its stability and in order to maintain the unity of its land and people.

Prime Ministers' Talks

JN291649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Official talks between Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Lebanese Prime Minster Shafiq al-Wazzan began this morning. The talks were attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The talks dealt with the relations existing between fraternal Syria and Lebanon, the current circumstances in the Lebanese arena and major issues in the Arab arena.

Al-Asad, Al-Wazzan Remarks

JN292055 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, also participated in the discussions, as did Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan conveyed greetings to the president from Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and from Maronite patriarch His Beatitude Butrus Khuraysh. Their discussions dealt with Lebanon's concerns, developments in the Lebanese arena, the Arab situation in general and matters of common interest to the two fraternal countries, Syria and Lebanon.

At the end of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's visit to Damascus, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad met with the information representatives in Lebanon who accompanied Mr Shafiq al-Wazzan and answered their questions.

The first question dealt with the focus of the talks that Shafiq al-Wazzan held with his excellency the president during today's meeting. The president answered: What did the talks focus on? This question will be answered by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan if you address it to him. At any rate, Shafiq al-Wazzan naturally came to Syria carrying many concerns from which he and the ordinary citizen in the Lebanese arena are suffering. As is the case each time, we in Syria attach interest to what is happening on Lebanese soil. This time as well we will do our best for the security of the Lebanese individual, because our view of the Lebanese individual's security is exactly similar to our view of the Syrian individual's security. We are one united people and belong to one nation.

Asked whether new arrangements are being made in this respect, his excellency the president replied: We have stressed the importance of continued action to entrench security everywhere. In places where there are so-called attempts to bring the situation to a head, we and the brothers concerned in the Lebanese arena, both in the Arab Deterrent Force [ADF] and others, will do our best to prevent the situation from coming to a head. Naturally, everyone is responsible and so are you. We should all cooperate to entrench security in Lebanon.

Asked whether this means that new measures will be taken on the level of the ADF to entrench security, his excellency the president said: The Lebanese Government will do anything it deems suitable.

Asked about what has been accomplished in regard to Arab developments, the president answered: We exchanged viewpoints on these developments and agreed that coordination, contact and the exchange of viewpoints on various current issues and on those that surface in the Arab arena should continue.

Asked whether there is any prospect for a Syrian-Lebanese summit, his excellency the president said: As you know, relations between Syria and Lebanon and between President Sarkis and myself are fraternal. I'm always willing to meet with President Sarkis. It is likely that we will meet in a short time. We have not yet set the date of this meeting. However, we might meet in the near future.

The president was told: Military developments have occurred in regard to the Syrian reply to the Israeli aggression. Does this mean that there is a new Syrian stand on the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon? The president replied: Our stand is firm and constant. We oppose Israel's attempts at aggression against Lebanon or any other part of the Arab homeland. However, a direct reply has its factors which might differ from place to place. In one place one side decides that it is responsible for a specific military force. In another place, as is the case in southern Lebanon, there are several interrelated factors. At any rate, we will repulse any aggression against southern Lebanon at any time. This is a firm and not a seasonal policy.

The president was told: The events in Zahlah are being exploited; in other words, there are exploitations that are termed explosions. The president answered by saying: The error lies primarily in trying to depict the ADF as a party to the problems that take place in one place or another, particularly as regards the events in Zahlah. The ADF is not a party to these problems. It went to contribute to the consolidation of security. It is in Zahlah or the area surrounding Zahlah for the sake of the residents' security.

On this occasion I would like to say that the people of Zahlah were among the first to urge the Syrian forces' entry into Lebanon. I think that several officials and dignitaries in Zahlah will remember certain facts when they hear me say this. They might recall several meetings they held with me personally, urging me to provide Zahlah with supplies and, at certain times, with blood samples. I recall now that before we entered Lebanon, we sent medical supplies at the request of Zahlah's dignitaries. We also sent blood samples to Zahlah's hospitals, to save some wounded. At another time, we sent foodstuffs in military trucks.

It was I who used to insist to those Zahlah citizens who came to visit me that there was no need for speed in entering Lebanese territories, because the crisis might end soon and the roads would open. They used to agree with reluctance to my propsal for delay. Some, though not all, of the humanitarian and brotherly motives that made us enter Lebanon were the sufferings that our sons and brothers in Zahlah were passing through. Therefore, we do not believe that the attempts at explosion are carried out by those who are concerned about Zahlah. We do not consider the sons of Zahlah responsible for these attempts. We will always feel that the attempts at explosion have not been and will never be carried out by those who are concerned about the security of the citizens in Zahlah, or in any other place in Lebanon. That's why the ADF must remain firm in its position and try to continue the task for which it was sent to Lebanon, whether or not it is accused and whether or not it is considered a party to the problems. This task is to protect all and to struggle unceasingly to entrench security, taking into consideration the fact that all are sons and brothers and that the responsibility for their security is absolute.

The president was asked about the Arab situation, given that there is an Arab good offices committee that will visit Syria, Jordan and Iraq. What will Syria's response to this committee be if it visits Damascus?

The president said: As you know, we in Syria have a firm Arab policy, which consists in protecting that which all agreed to call Arab solidarity. In our view solidarity means struggle against colonialism, imperialism, Israel and all of their agents in the area. We support and will seek to achieve Arab solidarity on these bases and principles. I believe that our Arab brothers agree with us on these bases and principles. It is important that we unify our concepts in light of these foundations.

The president was asked: On the basis of this concept, how do you view the Arab situation in future?

The president said: Hope for good and you will find it. We are optimistic and, naturally, we have been consulted about the committee of good offices. As you know, we have strong relations with the two fraternal countries that will exert these efforts and that will undertake contacts with us and others.

The president was told that the United States is on the verge of a new administration, and was asked: What will Syria's stand be on this administration?

The president said: It will be the same stand as on the current U.S. administration. There will be absolutely no change. We do not know whether they will change or not. In any event, if the new administration's policy remains the same as that which preceded it, our stand on this administration will remain the same. If any new policy is followed, then we will discuss it when it occurs. What is important is that our stand continue to remain a principled one, that is leads to the recovery of the land that was occupied in 1967 and to recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, including the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO.

The president was told that attempts are being made to drag Jordan into the Camp David agreements during Kissinger's tour.

The president said: In this regard, Jordan's role is the same as that of any Arab country that has no territory under occupation. Jordan cannot play any role that exceeds these limits.

The president was asked about how he views the new year, which will begin in 3 days, and whether it will be a year of problems or one of peace.

The president said: The problem, particularly for Muslims, is that Prophet Muhammad, may God's blessings and prayers be upon him, said that he was the last of the prophets, and so I do not want to prophesy. It is better, however, not to imagine that the circumstances of the coming year will be any better than those of the current one. There might be even more difficulties next year.

The president was told: A lot is expected of Syria in the coming year, particularly in terms of the issues of peace and war. Therefore, it is important to us to have its position confirmed, because the Lebanese citizen is perplexed as to the next stage and your answer will give us more indications as to what the Syrian stand will be.

The president said: As I have said, the situation will remain unchanged. We will not capitulate and we will fight those in the region who do. We are very confident that those who capitulate will be defeated, no matter how loud they speak and shout. You hear their shouts, but they are shouts of pain and of real defeat, though some are not aware of this. Victory is ours. We will not capitulate. We will regain our rights. We hope to meet when all of this is achieved.

On southern Lebanon, the president was told that he has announced more than once that the defense of southern Lebanon is a joint Arab responsibility; but we see that, despite the continued Israeli aggressions, Syria is the only state that shoulders the responsibility of repulsing these aggressions. Will there be a Syrian invitation for an Arab meeting to draft a strategy for confronting the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon?

The president answered: We in Syria are confident that we represent joint Arab responsibility. However, our Arab brothers will not shirk their duty when the need arises. So far those present in the south--the Syrians, the Lebanese, the Palestinians and other Arabs--can shoulder the duty. When things develop, we will know what to say. Of course, it is natural that any Arab land is a joint Arab responsibility, but we will not burden anyone with more than he can handle.

The president was told that the rest of the Arabs support Lebanon with words. He answered: We hope this will be changed to deeds.

The president was asked if there is a link between the Israeli attempts to explode the situation in the south and the isolationist movement in Zahlah. The president said: As always in political analysis and deduction, we try to link all incidents in the Arab region. This does not mean that there is a certain person we know of that effected the link or the connection. The link sometimes may be indirect. But generally, in our view in Syria there is one political and military scheme being carried out with its various and coordinated branches in the Arab arena.

The president was asked about his views on the reestablishment of Arab solidarity. He said: We must adopt a single stand against the policies of capitulation and the relinquishment of our rights. These are not conditions. They are our duties. They are the prerequisites for the just struggle and for the recovery of the just rights.

The president was asked if there is a new clarification of Syria's warning to some Arab parties that aid the Muslim Brotherhood organization inside Syria. The president said: We no longer have a problem called the Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood problem has moved on to others. It is not with us now. We had a group of people who joined the Muslim Brotherhood in the past. They were linked with parties outside Syria and with imperialist forces. This is not a deduction, it has been proven by investigations. We brought some of them from some positions in Lebanon. When they were exposed, our people quickly liquidated them. They are seeking shelter in any part of the Arab homeland. However, those Arabs who extended a hand for them or aided them have made a mistake. Their calculations were not exact and the price was dear for them and for the Muslim Brotherhood as well.

The president was told: It is being said that the Arab and Lebanese areas will pass through military and geographic developments during the next 6 months. What is your opinion?

The president: I have read and heard many things about this. We should have full confidence, however, that no one but us can do anything in this area. The backstabbing imperialists' illusions must be removed. Colonialist forces are no longer capable of doing anything in this area. They have been defeated forever. The time when this or that country used to make a statement, pretending to be concerned or sending a ship, a plane or a fleet has ended. We possess the necessary moral, material and military power to defeat all of these forces. This age is that of the peoples' revolutions, whether they are great or small peoples. The colonialist forces' era has ended forever. We, the sons of this area, are those who decide on its geographical, historical and political plans. It is we, the Arabs in this area. The others can do nothing more than talk, which we and all of you are hearing.

The president was asked: Will Syria confront Israel's policy of annexation of the Golan Heights? The president told the one who posed the question: Have you any doubt of this? We will certainly confront it.

The president concluded his statements to the representatives of the Lebanese information media by asking them to convey greetings from him and from the Syrian citizens to our sons and brothers in Lebanon. The president said: As we have always done, we reiterate that our people in Lebanon are the same as our people in Syria. This is how we view matters and on this basis we have acted in the past and will act in the future. We harbor absolutely no grudge against or hatred for anyone in Lebanon. We went there because we love all and wished to achieve the interest of all. I am glad to have met with Shafiq al-Wazzan, the prime minister. He has long been our friend, as you well know. We in Syria will cooperate with Shafiq al-Wazzan's government. We will provide it with all of the assistance we can offer and we believe that any assistance to it is assistance to our fraternal Lebanon.

Shafiq al-Wazzan also made a statement to the journalists.

[Following format change is as read by announcer.]

[Question] Your Excellency, how do you evaluate the talks you had in Damascus today, following what has been said by President al-Asad and your meeting with his excellency?

Answer: In truth I wish to thank His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and the other ministers and officials for the reception they accorded us, which made me feel that they are meeting all of Lebanon in the person of the Lebanese prime minister. This is not something new, because his excellency has accustomed us to this boundless love. His excellency has never failed to serve Lebanon and the national or Pan-Arab causes in Lebanon. Naturally, you have all heard his excellency's replies to your questions which fully depicted our fruitful talks, which were held in an atmosphere of brotherhood. The talks revealed an indentiy of viewpoints, a determination to work for all of the issues that interest us in Lebanon, beginning with security, about which all of us are concerned, and about which President al-Asad has been and continues to be concerned. The important think that you have decided is that each of us has a role he must assume in this crucial stage, at all levels. Since Cyria has had an important role in consolidating security after the end of fighting in Lebanon and considering the Syrian and Arab initiatives there, we in Lebanon are duty bound to take the initiative to achieve peace among us.

The initiative of establishing security does not exempt us as Lebanese citizens from taking the initiative to achieve reconciliation and peace among us. This is a Lebanese responsibility. We must realize and act on this. When the government in Lebanon approved the principles of reconciliation, it was aware of this responsibility and of the need to achieve the bases for this reconciliation. We have to begin with implementation, after we ensure a sound atmosphere for this course, despite the existence of some difficulties. This is our duty to our homeland and we must proceed on this course.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, it has been said in Lebanon that this visit is devoted almost entirely to tackling security problems. In the wake of the talks, what can be said in reply to such speculations?

Answer: When I was entrusted with the formation of this cabinet, I announced at the gate of the presidential palace that one of the basic premises of my policy is total coordination between Lebanon and Syria, in view of the nature of the special relationship existing between them, deriving from their historical ties, the bonds of kinship between the two peoples, their common destiny and their common struggle.

We said in the statement that this behooves us to maintain full and constant coordination. My visit is based on this premise. This does not prevent the purpose of the visit from including the consolidation of security in Lebanon and, therefore, the ADF's role in this regard. Despite all of the raging storms and the exaggerations of some people intended to distort the ADF's practices in Lebanon, we cannot but express our appreciation and gratitude to these forces for stopping the fighting since they entered Lebanon and for their role in assisting the Lebanese authorities to bring about security in many areas that are now enjoying stability, or some stability. All of this was mainly thanks to the ADF's cooperation.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, what is your opinion of the French Foreign Ministry's statement on the events in Zahlah?

Answer: I wish that this statement, which reminds us of past days that have gone, because the Lebanese people know for themselves the truth of the role that the ADF is performing. [sentence as heard] You heard His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad when he said that what concerns this area is accomplished by the people in the area alone. We know that France has a role to perform for the sake of Arab issues. However, if we accept a specific stand from it in this regard, this does not mean that we accept stands that can be considered a kind of intervention in Lebanon's legitimate affairs which are the domain of the Lebanese authorities alone.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, following this visit is it safe to reassure the Lebanese citizen about a secure future?

Answer: You know that I want to be optimistic, and we should be optimistic about a secure future, which should be built with our own hands. If we discover that there are those who seek to create explosions and spread disorder, it is our duty to expose these people and to strike firmly against them in order to deter them.

GENERAL JONES' TOUR LINKED WITH NEW JORDANIAN ROLE

JN261432 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Text] Political observers in Cairo, Tel Aviv and Amman expect that the tour that Gen David Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, is making in the Arab region will be conducive to important results in military cooperation and coordination among the Camp David partners.

General Jones left occupied Palestine for Cairo this morning following a 5-day visit during which he held extensive talks with Zionist enemy army officials. Earlier he visited Amman and met with Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Observers expect that after this meeting Jordan will begin to implement its role in the Camp David scheme. Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir left Amman for Washington yesterday to meet with senior military personnel in the Pentagon.

The Western news agencies' reports say that General Jones' tour emphasizes that King Husayn will have a prominent military role in the upcoming U.S. plan for a capitulatory solution. This plan is being prepared by President-elect Ronald Reagan. This is in additon to the role planned for the king as an alternative to the PLO as a negotiator.

These reports also note that Syria's recent massing of troops on the border with Jordan was a highly indicative warning to the king's regime not to play this role against the principal Arab cause and the Palestinian rights.

On the level of the self-rule plot, the Zionist newspaper HA'ARETZ said today that extensive contacts are now underway between the Zionist entity and the Egyptian regime in order to schedule a joint meeting and to continue the self-rule talks. The enemy radio said that the two sides want to hold a meeting on this basis and that the United States agreed to take part in this meeting. Muhammad Da'ud, Egyptian minister of state for agriculture, arrived in occupied Palestine today to meet with his Israeli counterpart in order to deepen the normalization of bilateral relations.

NABULUS MAYOR ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 29 DEC

JN291258 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The Palestinian struggler, Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, and his wife arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit of several days to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement to reporters, Ash-Shak'ah expressed pleasure at visiting heroic Damascus. He said that this visit means a lot to him because Damascus has a history of pan-Arab struggle and because he has many memories of it and close ties with its people.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOROCCO

JN252223 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Damascus this evening after leading the Syrian Arab delegation to the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which ended meetings in Rabat yesterday.

ALGERIA

U.S. GAO REPORT OF GAS PRICE HIKE DENIED

LD272104 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] A report published on 26 December by the General Accounting Office of the U.S. Government and carried by some press agencies speaks of a demand by the Algerian Government to increase the price of its natural gas by 200 percent. According to this report this demand could raise the U.S. imported gas bill by $3.5 billion annually.

Usually well-informed circles are wondering what the significance of this news is, as well as [words indistinct] used to work it out. These circles also recall that Algeria has never put forward such a demand, and that this kind of joke is aimed at falsifying Algeria's position, which was to refuse a price of $0.30 per 1 million BTU to Canada and to Mexico, while maintaining its aim of bringing progressively into line the price of liquid natural gas and that of crude oil. [figures as heard]

MAURITANIA

AFP REPORTS ON ALLEGED FOREIGN SUBVERSION

AB291520 Paris AFP in French 1206 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Dec (AFP)--Mauritanian authorities on Saturday accused some friendly country of subversive activities. Observers believe the country, which was not named, is Libya. The accusation came after a wave of protest among some student circles sponsored by some foreign country.

This accusation came in the wake of a strike at the French Arab secondary school in Nouakchott, during which a number of students questioned the professional qualifications of a Mauritanian teacher who had been trained in Iraq and of two Iraqi teachers of natural sciences and mathematics. According to several witnesses, the strike degenerated into a riot between student factions favoring and opposing these teachers. At the request of the school headmaster, the police intervened and arrested some 100 students. The strike then spread to other schools in the capital over other issues. After a week, the strike was only ended last Wednesday, at the beginning of the long vacation.

In unofficial circles in Mauritania, many people believe the strike had a political character and that the strikers were prompted by extreme Khomeyni or Al-Qadhdhafi supporters, who especially reproached the three teachers for their Ba'ath (pro-Iraqi) sympathies.

It is recalled that Mauritania and Iraq are linked by an important cooperation agreement. In this regard, Mauritania is supporting Iraq in its conflict with Iran, which does not please the sympathizers of Khomeyni and Libya. It appears that these people did not welcome the latest decision by the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) to establish civilian rule and to publish a constitution that provides for a multi-party system. It is no secret that Libya is hostile to the existence of political parties in an Islamic country. Tripoli accuses political parties of diverting the people from their true problems.

In this regard, there have been several demonstrations against the regime's new measures in the vicinity of the mosques in the capital. The communique, published by the government on Saturday, points out the disturbing and dangerous inclination of some Mauritanians to follow orders of foreign powers. It states that measures have been taken to ensure that national sovereignty is respected, but adds that Mauritania wishes to maintain good-neighbor relations with every nation on the basis of equality among states.

According to observers, the current situation is a clear illustration of Mauritania's problems. It is a country caught between the Arab and the black African worlds, its people maintaining ties with both and permanently influenced ideologically by both.

However, according to various sources in Nouakchott, the actual influence of the Ba'ath, Nasser, Khoemyni, Al-Qadhdhafi and progressive groups is insignificant and limited to the cities. But these elements are active and wish to strengthen their influence in traditional circles.

Asked if such situations as the one created by the recent student strikes cannot degenerate, the same sources say "no." They believe that too many people are interested in the establishment of a multiparty system, which the new constitution provides. They are unlikely to desire increasing disturbances which could jeopardize the process of liberalization.

Libyan Diplomats' Expulsion

AB291302 Paris AFP in English 1247 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Nouakchott, 29 Dec (AFP)--Three Libyan diplomats have been asked to leave Mauritania and the government has suspended activity by a Libyan cultural centre in Nouakchott, a reliable source said here today.

Five people described as pro-Libyan have also been detained after the Mauritanian authorities found what they saw as proof of subversive activities, the source added.

The authorities had for some time suspected the existence of such activity and had been closely watching pro-Libyan circles, particularly in higher education establishments, the source said.

The moves are part of measures announced Saturday by the government and the ruling Military Committee for National Salvation over subversive activities being carried out inside Mauritania by unnamed country, according to the source.

The country was believed to mean Libya.

The three diplomats were expelled after being declared personae non grata.

SENEGALESE MUSLIM LEADER BELIEVED EXPELLED

AB291545 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Dakar, Dec 29 (AFP)--Moslem Fundamentlist Leader Khalifa Niasse of Senegal, an outlaw in his own country, is believed to have been expelled from Mauritania on Saturday, a reliable source said here today.

He arrived in Las Palmas, Majorca, from Nouakchott the same day, having arrived in Mauritania a few days earlier apparently intending to settle there. He has recently been living in Libya.

Mr. Niasse founded the newspaper ALLAH AKHBAR (God is Great) and the illegal Izboulahi Party (the Party of God). He fled to France at the end of 1979 when he declared a holy war on the government of Senegal.

The Senegalese authorities requested his extradition in connection with the sale of tickets to pilgrims bound for Mecca which were allegedly not honoured.

Both the government of Senegal and that of Gambia which it surrounds blamed Mr. Niasse in connection with their breaking of diplomatic relations with Libya earlier this year. They claimed that the Libyan authroities were giving military training to Senegalese and Gambian oppositionists at the instigation of Mr. Niasse.

MOROCCO

RABAT REPORTS 24 DEC 'VIOLENT BATTLES' IN SEMARA

LD272038 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] The township of Rus al-Hamirah, in Semara region, witnessed violent battles throughout 24 December. Several battalions of mercenaries armed with advanced heavy weapons, including missile launchers of the multisalvo type, made several attacks on units of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces. The attacks were staged from three sector: the west, south and southeast.

All the attacks were foiled as a result of the steadfastness and bravery of units of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces who confronted the mercenaries in a minefield which they discovered and captured. The coordinated operations of the Royal Air Force and the artillery were characterized by effectiveness and decisive repulse. Our Royal Armed Forces displayed their usual bravery and gallantry, especially units of the 3d and 6th mobile infantry brigades, the 6th group of the royal artillery, the military engineering units, and formations of the Royal Air Force.

The battle continued fiercely all day and ended with the complete defeat of the mercenaries who fled the battlefield leaving behind scores of dead and seriously wounded. They suffered heavy losses in equipment including 50 military trucks which were completely destroyed.

Two of the Royal Armed Forces were martyred and 20 others were wounded.

TUNISIA

MOROCCO'S BOUABID'S VISIT ENDS; STATEMENTS MADE

LD262112 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Moroccan Prime Minister Maata Bouabid has concluded his official visit to Tunisia. Before leaving, he made a statement in which he said that his visit yielded positive results reflected in particular by the creation of a framework for the integration of the economy of the two countries.

In another part of his statement, he stressed the identity of Tunisian and Moroccan programs, especially in the political field. The leaders of the two countries were unanimous on pursuing a unified policy in the African, Arab and international fields as well as in the economic sector. The two countries expressed their resolve to follow a unified stand toward the EEC, especially after enlarging this community, pointing in this respect to the economic claims of the two countries which complement each other. The Moroccan prime minister expressed the hope that Algeria would join this accord so that the countries of the Arab Maghreb might be able to take a unified stand toward the EEC.

In the morning, a ceremony took place in the Sa'adah Palace at Marsa, during which the Moroccan and Tunisian prime ministers signed minutes containing the results attained by the two delegations and trade, customs and financial agreements to strengthen relations between the two treasuries of the two countries. Another agreement was also signed to establish a shipping line between Tunisia and Morocco. They exchanged documents relating to these agreements.

After the signing ceremony, Mohamed Mzali expressed satisfaction at the positive result of the Moroccan prime minister's visit as regards both cooperation and expansion of the ties of brotherhood and mutual confidence between the Moroccan and Tunisian peoples.

Mohamed Mzali stressed that cooperation between Tunisia and Morocco, like that between Tunisia and Algeria, is likely to embrace, soon, we hope, the three Arab Maghreb countries and perhaps others. The Tunisian prime minister added that when one studies the terms of the agreements he would observe that they were the culmination of realistic thinking and objective examination, adding that what had been agreed upon was capable of implementation, requiring only resolution and patience.

Maata Bouabid emphasized that what he saw during his visit to Tunisia gave rise to optimism and he added that his contacts with Mohamed Mzali, ministers and especially President Bourguiba confirmed the agreement of the two countries on all issues, whether at the African, Arab or international levels. He pointed out that Tunisian-Moroccan cooperation has more than one objective. Agreement on integration has been reached and efforts would be made to provide political cooperation to support the existing economic cooperation between Tunisia and Morocco. He explained that today a framework was formulated for economic integration by agreeing to undertake industrial projects. The two countries, he said, set industrial integration as their objective because the intention exists to integrate the two countries' industries.

Maata Bouabid stressed that for the first time there had been evident resolve by the two countries to reach agreement and to unify their stand on the EEC in view of the political and economic importance of the unification of stands not only to Tunisia and Morocco only but also to all the Arab states. He said in this respect: We hope that the clouds will disperse and that the Algerian brothers, who belong to the Arab Maghreb, which is the objective of all of us, will join us and that we will begin to speak one language in face of all blocs.

Joint Statement

LD262146 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Text] In the joint statement they issued today on the results of the visit of Moroccan Prime Minister Maata Bouabid to Tunisia, the Moroccan and Tunisian sides expressed their eagerness to bolster the fraternal ties between their two countries, continue consultations and bolster cooperation and exchanges bewteen them in all fields. They also expressed their desire to implement all programs in this respect.

The two sides stressed the need to continue their efforts to create a favorable atmosphere for building the greater Arab Maghreb on bases of fraternity, cooperation, solidarity, mutual interest and reciprocal respect. They also stressed the need to do all that will help to bring the area's countries closer to the desired objective in view of the ties of common language, religion and culture that bind all of them together, and out of loyalty to the common struggle of the area peoples for regaining their freedom, dignity and independence.

The two sides reviewed the current situation in the Arab arena. They affirmed, in particular, their determination to continue work to entrench Arab solidarity and close ranks in the face of the Zionist enemy and to bolster the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the PLO, for the retrieval of their usurped rights and the setting up of their national independent state and the securing of Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem. The two sides condemned Israel's decision to Judaize Jerusalem and to make it an internal capital.

The two sides expressed their concerned over the continued war between Iraq and Iran. They expressed their hope that the conflict will be resolved through peaceful negotiations.

The two sides affirmed their absolute support for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against imperialism and racism.

They also expressed their concern over foreign interference in Afghanistan, the Islamic state which belongs to the nonaligned group of nations.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Mediterranean and expressed their determination to do all they can to bolster the ties of cooperation among the countries of that area and to turn the area into one of peace and security.

The two sides paid special attention to the deterioration of the world economic situation and affirmed their determination to help bolster Arab-African cooperation and Arab-European dialogue and support the idea of a tripartite dialogue. The two sides decided to set up a resident joint committee on a high political and technological level to define unified stands and policies. They decided to ask for the inclusion of a special session on this matter in the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO ENVOY ADVOCATES SPAIN-SAHARA COMMUNIQUE

LD232028 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] A press conference has been given in Madrid by the Polisario Front official responsible for relations with Europe. (Fadil Ismai'l) said that talks will continue between the Saharan organization and the Spanish Government to reach fisheries agreements. Pressed to say whether Spanish fishing boats may operate in Saharan waters, (Fadil Ismai'l) merely repeated that the talks are continuing.

He went on to say that the Polisario Front is not asking Spain to recognize the organization for the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, but simply to respect Saharan rights, the integrity of its territory and its political interests. The Polisario representative viewed the signing of a joint Spanish-Saharan communique as a possible starting point to deepen bilateral relations. On the question of the conflict, (Fadil Ismai'l) said that Morocco is now in a situation where it is clearly incapable of continuing the war in the Sahara, on account of the social, political and economic crisis affecting the Moroccan people.

ARMY LAUNCHES 'FIERCE ATTACK' ON MOROCCANS 24 DEC

LD281111 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] The Sahran Popular Liberation Army has launched a fierce attack lasting from 24 to 26 December against a large Moroccan force at Rouss Mhalat, between Tan-Tan and Ras el Khannfra in the area of the Moroccan-Saharan borders. This was stated in a communique issued by the SDAR Information Ministry which said that the attack paralyzed the movement of a large number of Moroccan soldiers and caused the destruction of a large quantity of military hardware.

Like the military victories at Ras el Khannfra and elsewhere, this victory clearly proves the combat superiority of the Saharan army and its domination of the battelfield in the face of the Moroccan military war machine.

On 24 December the Saharan army attacked a military position at [word indistinct] using arms with large projectiles, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment upon the Moroccan forces.

PERES TO MEET WITH INCOMING U.S. OFFICIALS

TA291249 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, who is going to the United States next week for a visit as guest of the bonds organization, will meet in Washington with incoming Vice President George Bush, incoming Secretary of State Alexander Haig and incoming Adviser on National Security Affairs Richard Allen. He will also meet with Dr Kissinger both in Israel, in the next few days, and then in the United States. Our correspondent reports that because of the sensitivity of the issue in Israel and in the United States, Mr Peres has not asked to meet with incoming President Reagan himself. Our correspondent says that in his talks he will examine the possibility of realizing the Jordanian option. Over the last few days Mr Peres has been given updated information about the current positions of Arab countries, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia, by personalities from abroad. Egypt told him of its position through its delegation to the Labor Party congress.

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON FREEZE IN AUTONOMY TALKS

TA291721 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Israel should not be held responsible for the freeze in autonomy talks since Egypt is today incapable of signing an agreement compatible with the Camp David accords. This was stated by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction. Here is our Knesset correspondent, Moshe Hakohen, with some of the remarks:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There has been no progress in the negotiations due to the fact that Egypt is today incapable of signing an agreement fully loyal to the Camp David accords, both because of the international situation and the views prevailing in the Third World and the Arab world. This is so because in the Camp David accords there is no mention of self-determination or the right of self-determination, there is no mention of a Palestinian state. The Egyptians must sign an agreement relating to the autonomy and here is where the difficulty lies.

[Hakohen] The foreign minister also referred to the demand to change the leadership of the Israeli autonomy team and to MK Moshe Dayan's plan for a unilateral implementation of the autonomy by Israel.

[Shamir] On the personal level, I think that the team works well and nicely and does its best considering the objective conditions in which it finds itself and with which it has to work. One should not forget that the autonomy negotiations are conducted with Egypt and the United States. All these gimicks about scattered talks with some Arabs in the terrirtories, all these are merely publicity gimmicks; they have no relation whatsoever to the autonomy negotiations.

[Hakohen] The foreign minister added that the Egyptian delegation to the Labor Party convention did not properly read the political map in Israel if it arrived at the conclusion that Egypt would find it easier to negotiate with an Alignment-led government. Reacting to claims by members of the Likud faction that Labor Party leaders were conducting an independent foreign policy, the foreign minister said that this phenomenon was weakening Israel's moral status in the world. However, he suggested not overemphasizing its significiance. [end recording]

MODA'I RESIGNS AS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

TA280907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Today the Cabinet accepted Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's resignation from the communications minister's post. Mr Moda'i is still holding the energy and infrastructure portfolio in his hands.

CONGO

FOUR NEW MINISTRIES CREATED IN REORGANIZATION

AB291137 Paris AFP in French 1019 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Brazzaville, 28 Dec (AFP)--The Congolese Government underwent a minor reshuffle following the third extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the Congolese workers' Party (PCT--the only party) which was held from 27 to 28 December in Brazzaville, it was learned in the Congolese capital on Monday.

This reshuffle is marked by the creation of four new ministries--Cooperation, Labor and Social Security, Tourism and Environment and Water and Forestry--which brings to 22 the number of portfolios in the Congolese Government. Four ministers are members of the Political Bureau (BP). Six new ministers enter the government and two leave.

The defense portfolio, hitherto held by President Sassou-Nguesso, is attributed to Lt Col Raymond Damas Ngollo, member of the Political Bureau of the PCT who makes his entry into the government. The former Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is split into two: one Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the minister of which is not changed and a Ministry of Cooperation to which a newcomer to the government, Mr Emmanuel Yoka, is appointed.

The former Ministry of Labor and Justice is also split into two: one Ministry of Justice to which Mr Dieudonne Kimbembe, a newcomer into the government, is appointed, replacing Mr Tamba who leaves the government; and another Ministry of Labor and Social Security to which Mr Bernard Combo Matsiona, who makes his entry into the government, is appointed.

Mr Justin Lekoundzou (member of the BP) enters the government and becomes minister of finance, replacing Mr Henri Lopez who leaves the government.

Finally, a Ministry of Tourism and Environment is created, as well as a Ministry of Water and Forests. Two newcomers to the government, Mr Boniface Matingou and Henri Djombo, take them over.

Finally, the Ministry of Rural Economy becomes the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Here is the list of the new government as it was published on Monday:

Prime minister	Col Louis Sylvain Goma
Minister-delegate at the president's office in charge of national defense	Lt Col Raymond Damas Ngollo (member of the PCT Political Bureau)
Minister of finance	Justin Lekoundzou (member of the Political Bureau)
Minister of foreign affairs	Pierre Nze
Minister-delegate in charge of cooperation	Aime Emmanuel Yoka
Minister of the interior	Maj Francois Xavier Katali (member of the Political Bureau)
Minister of information, posts and telecommunications	Maj Florent Tsiba, (member of the Political Bureau)
Minister of public works and construction	Benoit Moundele

Minister of culture and the arts, in charge of scientific research	Jean Baptiste Taty-Loutard
Minister of national education	Antoine Ndinga-Oba
Minister of youth and sports	Gabriel Oba Apoundou
Minister of transport and civil aviation	Hilaire Mounthault
Minister of justice	M. Dieudonne Kimbembe
Minister of labor and social security	Bernard Combo Matsiona
Minister of mines and energy	Rodolphe Adada
Minister of agriculture and livestock	Marius Mouambenga
Minister of industry and fishing	Jean Itade
Minister of planning	Pierre Moussa
Minister-delegate in charge of cooperation	Aime Emmanuel Yoka
Minister of trade	[Joseph] Elenga-Gaporo
Minister of public health and social matters	Pierre Damien Moussoukou-Boumba
Minister of tourism and the environment	Boniface Matingou
Minister of water and forestry	Henri Djombo

COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

AB291237 Paris AFP in French 1112 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Brazzaville, 29 Dec (AFP)--The extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the Congolese Workers' Party (CPI--the only party)--which opened on Saturday ended on Sunday in the Congolese capital in the presence of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

The final communique published on Monday raised mainly the Chadian question and expressed Congo's satisfaction at the victory of President Goukouni Queddei's coalition forces over Mr Hissein Habre's Northern Armed Froces.

President Nguesso also appealed for national unity from the Congolese people. The 1980 year which was marked by a climate of political agitation and attempts to divide the revolutionary forces. This mobilization is even more necessary at a time when the economic crisis remains profound, the communique states.

The Cental Committee also expressed concern over the inadequate mobilization and the lack of training of party members in all the various sections. The communique specifies that in this regard, the new government was called upon to associate the political commissioners and the regional committees of the party more closely with the development of the regions.

THE GAMBIA

YOUTH DESCRIBE ANTIGOVERNMENT TRAINING IN LIBYA

AB280608 Paris AFP in English 0352 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] Banjul, Gambia, 28 Dec (AFP)--Twenty-two young Gambian nationals told reporters here Saturday that they had been trained in camps in Libya to fight against the government of this small West African state. The youths, presented by Foreign Minister Lamine Jabang, said they were part of a group of 240 Gambians trained in Libya.

They had been recruited with promises of paid work by representatives of Ahmed Khalifa Niasse, they said. Mr. Niasse, from Senegal, has founded an Islamic party banned in his own country and is in exile in Tripoli.

(The Gambian authorities gave such training of young Gambians as the reason for their breaking diplomatic relations with Libya in October. Two days later soldiers from surrounding Senegal suddenly arrived in Gambia amid rumours of an attempted coup d'etat in the enclave.)

The youths said they were recruited in Cotonou, Benin after having been contacted by representatives of Mr. Niasse based in Nigeria. As soon as we arrived in Libya, our passports were taken away and we were taken to military camps, our hosts claiming that there were no hotel rooms available, one of them said. The youths said that the following day they rebelled but were beaten up by Libyan soldiers with the help of 70 soldiers from the Central African Republic.

People from Chad, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Cameroon and Uganda were currently undergoing training in Libyan camps, they said. According to official sources here, the 22 were allowed to leave Libya following protests from the Gambian Government.

NIGERIA

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON DISTRUBANCES IN KANO

Minister's Remarks

AB291830 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] The military operation against the Kano religious fanatics has been completed. Disclosing this to news agencies of Nigeria, the minister of defense, Professor Iya Abubakar, said the soldiers have pulled out after liquidating the resistance of the fanatics and the police have moved in to ensure safety of life and property. The minister explained that the military joined in the operation to dislodge the fanatics and restore normality. As soon as this was done, he went on, the military had to move out to enable the police to do their work. On the fate of the 65 people wounded by the fanatics, the minister said they were in a position to give useful information on the incidents and need therefore not be released yet.

Asked if the federal government will investigate the disturbances, Professor Abubakar said this could not be ruled out but added that this will be at the instance of the president. Speaking on the situation in Kano, Professor Abubakar said he had sent [word indistinct] officers to the scene of the riots for an on-the-spot assessment of the exact number of people killed and the extent of damage caused to property.

The minister explained that until he was furnished with details by the officers, he would not be in a position to ascertain if the leader of the sect involved in the fighting had been arrested or killed. The minister, however, confirmed the involvement of foreigners in the riot.

Casualties, Arrests

AB291600 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1445 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Seven soldiers died yesterday as (Anarakyi) quarters, residence of the Kano religious fanatics, were reduced to debris by the armed forces. The leader of the fanatics, Al-Hadj Mohamed Marwa (Mai Kasini), was wounded in the leg and is believed to be hiding at (Eligere Zaki), west of Kano city. A police report in Kano says the soldiers died in an exchange of fire between the military and the fanatics. The police and civilian volunteers have now cordoned off (Eligel Zaki) in a bid to capture (Mai Kasini) alive.

Meanwhile, one of the four wives of Mohamed Marwa, and one of his sons have been arrested. This afternoon Governor Mohamed Abubakari Rimi, accompanied by the general officer commanding one infantry brigade, Maj Gen David (Djolivowon), and the Nigerian director of the Nigerian Security Organization, Mr Samuel Dotse, visited the (Anaraky) quarters. They were shown five of the fanatics captured.

Kaduna Commentary

AB291535 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [Words indistinct] and has always been a jovial occasion in Nigeria, so was it this year. However, things were not particularly bright for Nigerians resident in the historic Kano city. From nowhere emerged an extremely fanatical religious group known as the Al-Masifu group, killing innocent people in their hundreds and injuring thousands of others. The Al-Masifu sect is said to have its headquarters in Niger and its members were among those who occupied the Qa'bah Mosque in Mecca sometime in 1978.

In Kano the sect is being headed by one Mohamed Marwa (Mai Kasini) who was deported from the city in 1962 during the reign of Mohamed Sanusi. His followers are believed to have come from the Cameroons, Chad, Niger and Guinea while their advisers are believed to be non-Africans. Marwa seems to have reemerged in Nigeria in 1978 when his followers caused disturbances in Maiduguri, Borno state, during which a police inspector was killed. Angered by this incident, the Borno Police Command went into action and successfully destroyed the hideout of the fanatics, thereby forcing them to flee the area. They seem to have settled in Kano, for a few months ago there were reports of some religious fanatics attacking people indiscriminately there.

For whatever reason, the police appear to have ignored them until the situation developed the way it did recently. From their recent encounter with the police, the notorious fanatics appear to be well armed, for they successfully held their ground for almost 10 days. Indeed, the police were so helpless before them that the armed forces had to be brought in. The army is expected to flush them from their hideouts within hours, to the extent that members of the sect are now on the run.

Quite a number of issues arise from the situation. In the first place, this affair has exposed the inadequacies of our police in dealing with serious cases of emergencies of this nature. It again strengthens the fear of the public that the police force is armed with only antiquated weapons. Secondly, the Kano incident clearly shows the laxity on the part of our security agents. It is a matter of serious concern that the fanatics (?beat) our immigrations and other security officials to smuggle themselves and weapons into the country without being detected. Where is the much talked about security and stability we are so much tired of hearing every day. Our problem is that we seem to be paying lip service to serious issues affecting us as a nation [words indistinct] returns the body politic to the department of sound judgement and reasoning. The indiscriminate attack on individuals by the fanatics appears to undermine any political undertone in the whole affair.

Nevertheless, although the situation has put us in a shameful position before the eyes of the world, it has indeed taught us a lesson: that we need in future to take seriously the security affairs of our nation. We cannot afford to play with that. Let us hope that the Kano incident will serve as an eye opener not only to our security men, but to all of us as a people and as a nation.

SIERRA LEONE

PRESIDENT STEVENS' CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED

AB300747 Paris AFP in English 0723 GMT 30 Dec 80

[Text] Freetown, 29 Dec (AFP)--President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone reshuffled his cabinet on Monday, bringing in three new ministers.

They are H.G. Kanu (mines), who had been president of Sierra Leone Airways, E.J. Laverse (information), former vice minister of commerce, and Alfred Akibo Betts (minister of state for finance), former vice minister in the Finance Ministry.

Leaving the government are M.S. Mustapha (minister of state without portfolio), Moses Kamara (minister for the northern province) and F.S. Conteh (mines).

Several other ministers changed portfolios.

The first vice-president is S.I. Koroma and the second vice-president is C.A. Kamara-Taylor.

Ministers are as follows:

Finance	S.S. Banya (formerly development and economic planning)
Justice and Attorney-General	A.B. Kamara
Foreign Affairs	Abdulai Conteh
Development and Economic Planning	H.H.T. Williams (formerly health)
Agriculture and Forestry	A. Jackson
Natural Resources, fisheries and Animal Husbandry	K.C. Gbamanja
Trade and Industry	S.A.J. Pratt
Transport and Communications	P.P.B. Kebbie (formerly labour)
Education	Abdul Karim Koroma
Interior	Alhaji S.H.O. Gborie
Health	F.M. Minah (formerly finance)
Public Works	E.J. Kargbo
Information and Broadcasting	E.J. Laverse
Mining	H.G. Kanu
Construction and Urban Development	Ibrahim Kamara
Labour	A.B.M. Kamara (formerly transport and communications)
Social Affairs and Rural Development	Thaimu Bangura
Energy	S.B. Marah
Tourism and Cultural Affairs	D.F. Shears
Minister for state and leader of the House	Tom Smith

UPPER VOLTA

RULING COMMITTEE DECREES ON CURFEW, FIREARMS

AB281023 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Decrees issued on 27 December by the Chairman of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress--CMRPN--on curfew, working hours of bars and the holding of firearms--read by the CMRPN spokesman]

[Text] The inhabitants of towns and villages of Upper Volta are reminded that the curfew imposed with a view to maintaining order and peace cannot suffer any infringement and must be rigorously respected as such. Any infringer of the curfew regulations will face the following sanctions:

1. First infringement: checking of identity card; detention until the end of curfew time, with a fine of 1,000 CFA francs.
2. Recidivist: checking of identity card; detention for 48 hours with a fine worth 4,000 CFA francs.
3. The detention and collecting of fines will be carried out solely by the competent services of the national gendarmerie and police and a receipt will be issued to the person affected.

Ouagadougou, 27 December 1980, by President Saye Zerbo.

Decree No 80/028-CMRPN on the operating hours of bars and other public houses: The president of the CMRPN and head of state issues the following decrees:

Article 1: As of 1 January 1981, the opening of bars and other public houses is forbidden all over the national territory on working days from 0700 to 1230 GMT and from 1500 to 1730 GMT.

Article 2: The minister of defense and veteran affairs, the minister of home affairs and security, the minister of justice and keeper of the seals and the minister of finance will insure the enforcement of this decree which will be recorded and published in the official gazette of the republic and issued wherever it is necessary.

Ouagadougou, 25 December 1980 by Col Saye Zerbo.

Decree No 80/032-CMRPN on the control of firearms held by individuals on the national territory: The president of the CMRPN and head of state issues the following decree:

Article 1: Every owner of firearms subject to the control of the customs and security services must hand the latter over under the following conditions:

Article 2: In every chief town of administrative divisions, the resident chief of the gendarmerie is solely entitled to collect and keep the arms subject to the present decree and he must issue a receipt to the owner concerned.

Article 3: In other chief towns of administrative divisions, the administrative authorities and the gendarmerie sub-units which insure the security of the area will jointly insure the proper enforcement of those measures.

Article 4: The minister of defense and veteran affairs, the minister of interior and security and the minister of finance are each responsible for the enforcement of the present decrees, which will be recorded, published in the official gazette of the republic and issued wherever it is necessary.

Ouagadougou, 27 December 1980 by Col Saye Zerbo.